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Lynn Preparative

en Minutes of

omen Essay Meetings

1-6-1868 —— 3-4-1875

EARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS
FOR NEW ENGLAND

Aaron R. Gay & Co.
STATIONERS,
AND
Blank-Book Manufacturers,
130 STATE STREET,
BOSTON.

At a meeting of some of the younger members of the Society of Friends, held at the house of James Oliver, 2d
1868 day evening 1st Mo. 6th 1868.

Jabez Wood
Jabez Wood was called to the chair, and, after briefly stating the object of the meeting to be the formation of a society from the class now assembled which should hold meetings for the purpose of reading essays original or selected with a view to interest and edify this class of society, inquired if any one present had a plan of procedure to propose.

David S. Wood arose and introduced for the consideration of the meeting a plan
Plan of operation nearly as follows, viz, That the matter to be read at the meetings before mentioned be selected by a committee appointed for that purpose, and that this committee report to each meeting, when practicable, the subject or subjects upon which they propose the reading shall be at the meeting next ensuing.— That an Executive Committee be appointed who shall hold office one year, whose duty it shall be to nominate monthly the remaining officers of the society, viz, a President, Secretary and a committee to select the reading, and present these nominations to the meeting.— To invite to the meetings such

Friends as reside in this vicinity and those whom they may meet with at meeting or elsewhere who may be making a temporary stay in the City, also those persons who unite with Friends in Religious worship, not however to the exclusion of any who they think will be interested in attending the meetings.

After a free discussion and interchange of sentiment the plan proposed was adopted.

Elizabeth B. Wood was appointed Secretary of the meeting.

Upon motion being made that the chair appoint a committee to retire and nominate an Executive Committee for the year ensuing David Original S. Wood, Ella Paige, and Louisa P. Hoag were appointed, who, having retired, subsequently presented the following names, Jabez Wood, Louisa P. Hoag, Ellwood Page, Mary E. Hacker, Alice Jenkins and Charles A. Coffin, which being read were unanimously adopted and as only two of this committee are present this evening they are allowed to make their nominations for the month and present them to our next meeting, and are requested to inform the committee to select the reading of their nomination that they may proceed in preparing matter to read at that time.

After a considerable time spent in discussing the subject of a name for the society, it was concluded to call it "The Essay Meeting".

Name

It was decided that our meetings for the present should be held once in two weeks,— That they should be opened by reading a portion of Scripture, the reading to commence at half past seven.

once in 2 weeks

After the expression by several present of an earnest wish for the success of the Society thus organized, and the desire that its meetings may prove seasons of instruction and useful entertainment to the class which they are designed more particularly to benefit, the meeting adjourned to meet again at this place on the evening of the 15th inst.

E. B. Wood, Secretary.

June Thirteenth 13 1868. — Jabez Wood in the chair. 29 persons present in the course of the evening.

The second Essay Meeting, at James Olivers, was opened with the 25th Chapter of Job, followed by a few moments of solemn and profitable silence. The Chairman had requested that such a pause after the Scripture Reading be invariably observed, and had expressed a hope that it might often prove to be a pause of real devotion.

The records of the previous meeting were read and approved. The following nominations for the ensuing four weeks were reported by the Executive Committee, and were confirmed by the meeting, — Chairman, Jabez Wood; Secretary, Louisa P. Hoag; Reading Committee, Daniel B. Wood, Alice Jenkins, James Edward Oliver.

Extracts were then read from Ruskin's "Sesame and Lilies," occupying about forty minutes. They dwelt chiefly upon the importance of aiming rather at mental and spiritual "advancement in life" than at merely material and outward success; and upon the books we ought to prefer and the manner in which we should read them. This led to some discussion, in which Clara C. Oliver, Charles Gilbert Coffin, Owen Dame and others took part. The general opinion seemed to be, that reading ought not to be confined to works which happen to please the reader, (nor to such as can be fully understood without mental effort, nor to such as agree with the reader's previous views; that one should study a good book with more thoroughness than is usual,—first impartially seeking to get at the book's precise meaning, and afterwards carefully considering how far that meaning may be true; and that this labor will greatly conduce to that growth of mind and character, whose "price," according to "the chapter read," is "above rubies." This idea of growth was further illustrated by two poems; Holmes's "Chambered Nautilus," and Longfellow's "Ladder of Saint Augustine".

The Reading Committee announced as the subject for the next meeting, "The poetry of Shakespeare."

It was voted that the future meetings be held on alternate Fourth-days, at half past seven P. M.; and that the devotional and literary exercises commence at precisely 7 3/4.

This evening's exercises had been somewhat delayed by a natural misapprehension concerning the assigned hour; but all the members were earnestly requested to be punctual in future; and it was agreed that the regular exercises begin at the precise hour assigned, even if but few of the members should be in their seats.

Adjourned, to meet next at Green Lane.

Louisa P. Hoag, Secretary.

Lyceum 29th 1st Month 1868.

The meeting was opened by reading the 14th chap. of Ephesians by the President. In the absence of the Secy Ella Paige was chosen Secy for the evening.

35 persons were present.

The subject announced by the Reading Committee (The poetry of Quakerism) was then taken up and selections were read relating to meetings, peace and the doctrine of inspiration, from Wm Penn, J. J. Gurney "Friendless, Sailor Thos à Kempis Chas Lamb and a few extracts from Whittier and Holmes, which would teach us that true Quakerism was not in length of face and solemn tone" but in "Faith and works of love and duty."

The reading was followed by a discussion but owing to limited time but few joined in it.

The exercises were closed by the reading of an original poem by C. Elwood Paige which met with the hearty approval of all, the writer would tell us that we need not "care for hollow forms" or "wrangle over doctrines dry" for through all forms the "Lord of Life knows well who love and worship Him."

Adjourned to meet on Second day eve to enable us to listen to an Essay by Prof— Dillingham of Haverford Col.

Ella S. Paige
Secy pro tem.

Our Quaker Faith.

We weave no web of make believe
Around our Quaker fathers' faith,
Why scorn what served their common use,
Upheld in life stood fast in death.

'Gainst truth and right what seeks to weigh
Like rabble's rant—the proud lips curl
Not ours! for we shall one day see
The angel guarded gates of pearl.

We count not on our quiet mien,
Our modest garb, and simple speech
To make our inner temple clean,
Or bring down heaven within our reach.

Less still we care for hollow forms
For loud harangue and pulpit glare,
But others bitter beaten by storm
We own the path of faith and prayer.

No vaunt of tithes or alms we bring
No sanctity of pharisaic boasts
To sanctify the offering
We lay before the Lord of hosts.

We raise no fume and bickering strife
'Gainst organ sound and chant and hymn
Through outward form the Word of Life
Knows well who love and worship Him

Lies deeply buried in the past,
[illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] is joy
When man's [illegible] grew [illegible] [illegible]
Its written creed and priestly [illegible] -

Why wrangle over doctrines dry
Or [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] law
Since [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Why seek from earthly wells to draw -

Through light and shade [illegible] [illegible] pain
Our path of toil and duty lies
And sweet the rest we seek to gain
In fields of [illegible] beyond the skies -

Straight lies the path our feet must tread,
Our help the Everlasting Arm
God's bow of promise overhead,
Our duty joy, our life a psalm -

2nd Mo. 3, 1858. —

The Conversation at [illegible] was attended by 97 persons. The exercises were opened with the fifth Psalm. After the Record was read, the President introduced Professor Gillingham as Essayist for the evening. The company were deeply interested for an hour with the result of his thorough researches into the spirit of original Quakerism and the Providential course of events which prepared the way for a revival of primitive Christianity, such as appeared in its simplicity under the example and teachings of George Fox.

Religion, or the essence of Quakerism, the essayist defined to be, (in accordance with the derivation of the word, from religo,) a re-binding of the straying soul to the Spirit of God. The Quaker sought this vital union, not through priestly mediation, nor through ceremonial observances: he gained direct access to the source of all truth. With this rejection of human guidance, and entire dependence upon Divine instruction, was united an individual liberty of conscience such as was not found among other dissenters; for with the Friends this was a ruling principle rather than an accidental circumstance.

The Reformation led on by Luther and his associates stands earliest among the marked influences which favored the rise question of Quakerism. First might be mentioned the example which Henry VIII presented when he broke from the authority of the Pope of Rome, thus furnishing to his own subjects a precedent for dissent from the established church of England. Puritanism was a decided step of this kind, whose effect could not fail to be wide-spread and lasting. During the civil war against Charles I and the following years of Cromwell's Protectorship, prayer and psalm-singing became, through Cromwell's influence, common exercises among his soldiers and fashionable at Court as well. Although united with a vast deal of hypocrisy, yet this tended somewhat to arouse an interest in religious matters. Multitudes too, whose homes had been made desolate by bereavement during the sad years of war, were for that reason glad to be rightly directed to the consolations of religion. Add to these causes the eagerness of the people to grasp the privilege of reading the Bible, but lately placed within reach of all classes, and we see something of the work of Providence in preparing men to receive the words of George Fox.

During the discussion of the essay, one person briefly expressed his idea of Fox's chief aim to be the freeing of men from the entanglements of worldly forms and show, the great hindrances to pure religion. Another summed up the leading characteristics of the early Friends in two words,—spirituality and individuality.

David E. Wood read, to the edification of the company, a poem by Harriet McEwen Kimball entitled "My Friend"; and afterward, by request, the original poem introduced at the previous meeting.

Adjourned to meet at Ina A. Brown's on Fourth-day evening the 19th inst.

Louisa F. Hoag, Secretary.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] to the 11th chap. of Hebrews. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] The appointment [illegible] confirmed [illegible] he assumed the duties of that office [illegible] and Cella [illegible]

[illegible]

Doctrines of Christianity as declared in the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] with [illegible] Shall we not [illegible] to the Christian faith "I will believe [illegible]

[illegible] also." The prayer then referred to

[illegible]

The critical study of the Prophets [illegible]
[illegible] imperfections in [illegible]
[illegible] their teachings; yet the writer
regards these [illegible] as essential; [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] to impose
merely intellectual faith to be [illegible]
But while faith is absolutely [illegible]
[illegible]

After the reading of the essay [illegible]
made by several persons in [illegible]
points which had been brought for[illegible]
[illegible] of the length of time required [illegible]
of the light to reach us, it was [illegible]
star in the heavens should be [illegible]
be three or six years before [illegible]
[illegible] the nearest ones, and [illegible]
before we should be aware of
those more distant.
The signification of the word [illegible]
[illegible] not merely a [illegible]

[illegible] relation of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] by the [illegible] in regard to the Resurrection. [illegible] faith [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] things like these. If we take the oar of faith [illegible] we make no progress, but only move in a circle around our [illegible] experience. If we take the other [illegible] and [illegible] the other [illegible], [illegible] results. The boat [illegible] forward by depending equally upon both.

[illegible]

[illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] of faith [illegible] [illegible]. The Meeting was adjourned to meet [illegible] evening.

[illegible]

[illegible], [illegible]

Nov 13th 1868

Met according to adjournment at the house of Mary Brown. Attendance 26
Exercises were opened by reading the 37th chapter of Isaiah. Following the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting the Executive committee presented a list of names to constitute a board of officers for the ensuing month, viz. for President Charles A. Coffin, for Secretary Annie B. Page, Reading committee Gabes Wood, Sarah B. Hill and Sylvina Allen all of whom were unanimously elected to those offices respectively.
At announcement of the previous meeting the subject for the evening was Martin Luther.
Extracts from different works were read by Selina M. Neal giving a condensed account of the great Reformer, his humble origin, his persevering energy, his trials, his sufferings, his triumphs and the revolution in religious sentiment which his enthusiastic labors wrought, his unflinching adherence to conviction, in the face of all opposition, his fierce and fearless denunciations of many in high places, and the honor which even his enemies accorded to one who then dared to cry "unclean" in the ears of papal dignitaries and even to trample the bulls of the Pope under his feet.
Luther's Hymn translated by Carlyle and Luther's Reformer were read. Also the

original hymn prepared expressly for the Essay Meeting, and a vote of thanks was tendered to its [illegible] author.
Following the reading, remarks were made by several persons and the question raised whether the severe and denunciatory style of Luther was as powerful for good as milder and more persuasive means.
Adjourned to meet at the house of Joseph [illegible] on 2nd day evening 25th instant.

Annie W. [illegible], Secretary

[illegible]

Circle [illegible] the [illegible]. The reading [illegible] conducted by James Edward Oliver, consisting [illegible] from a work by Professor Mitchell, relating to the sun and moon. Of the former, reference [illegible] light and [illegible] upon its surface. Of the latter [illegible] mountains and caverns, and the [illegible] which powerful telescopic observation [illegible] revealed. The whole was largely [illegible] with remarks by the reader and observations [illegible].

Apropos to the subject matter of the [illegible] the "Ursa Major", a poem by Henry [illegible] read; after which the meeting [illegible] poem entitled "He did it not" [illegible] selected by our friend Eliza [illegible].

Adjourned to meet at Joseph [illegible]

Annie [illegible]

~~1th Mo.~~ 22nd/1865.

The Executive Committee of the Essay Meeting thought best to change the time of meeting, from the evening of the 5th to that of the 7th inst. as the meeting of the Fragment Society occurred on the 5th. Met at the house
50 of Joseph S. Brown, 50 being present.

After reading the 1st chapter of the second epistle of Peter; the officers for the following month were proposed and elected as follows, Walter D. Allen President, Mary E. Tucker Secty. Louise P. Hoag, Mortimer Hawkes and Martha Haines Reading Committee.

The secretarys report was read and Walter Allen taking his place in the chair, Chas. A. Coffin resigned it with the earnest hope that his successor might not be annoyed by the terror of an impending impeachment.

The reading of a chapter from Hollands "Lessons in Life", on the "Influence of Praise followed. The author says, "The man does not live, who is insensible to honest praise" and the desire of approbation is as legitimate as the desire for food"

Why then when we crave it, when at times one word of honest praise would strengthen us in our efforts, or fully compensate for all our labor, why is it so often withheld? while the heart still yearns for that which it would cost us so little to say, and them so much joy in the hearing.

He speaks of the influence of praise on children, and I would all might read it and reading, profit by it.

He says praise and flattery are as widely different as praise and blame, and that the praise of today is flattery, from interested motives.

Then followed a chapter on the "Unnecessary Burdens" which we bear, and truly there is an unnecessary amount of care and sorrow borne by each one of us.

We need more Faith, and allow the trials of each day to wear on us as the weight of mountains, and for a lack of Faith go on our way sorrowing, grown prematurely old by the accumulation of unnecessary cares.

Why will we not remember to cast our burden on Him who will sustain us.

Fanny L. Neal then read a poem entitled "Discouraged

Beauties of the Way." A very beautifully written one.

A discussion of the Selections from Holland then followed, and some gentlemen thought that their stern shoulders had borne the brunt of the sharp chiding; but let us each apply that to himself which is appropriate to his own case.

It is concluded to hold two sessions more of the Essay meeting and then close for the season.

The meeting then adjourned to meet at the house of Nathan Breed, and to close the meetings at Samuel Breed's four weeks from that time. 5th Mo. 6th 1868.

5th Mo. 6th, 1868.

According to adjournment, the meeting assembled at the house of Nathan Breed, on the eve. of the 9th of 4th Mo. at which session 70 were present.

Walter Allen opened the meeting by reading the 1st chapter of James, after which the secretary's report was read.

Louise P. Hoag read the 103 Psalm, followed by an Essay, kindly written by "some member of the Essay Meeting," on the same Ps.

It was at some length and finely written, bringing before us the great goodness and mercy of God. "Who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies." "Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things, so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."

The author asks why it is that the gratitude of God's creatures is not proportioned to their benefits, and in speaking of the way ones Christianity should be manifested, says "I cannot imagine how any Christian can belive in shutting himself up in his own sanctity like a monk in his cell, never mingling with the world, for fear of contamination."

Samuel Boyce spoke of the beautiful illustration of God's goodness in the renewing of youth like the eagle's.

He said as the eagle ~~as it~~ grew older its taste left it, the coating of the mouth becoming hardened, till at a certain time, the skin was thrown off, and its taste returns.

Jabez Wood asked, might not the shutting one's self in a cell, be in a measure applicable to the Society of Friends, and that in mingling more with others we might impart and receive much benefit.

A beautiful little poem read by Mary L. Neal, it is feared was not distinctly heard and we deem it worthy a second reading.

Martha Haines read from the Rambler a pretty little picture of a fruitless search of one Seged for happiness, but each day closed on an unhappy life, and as the tenth sun set, he exclaims, "Let no man presume to say hereafter "This day shall be a day of happiness"."

J. Elwood Paige read a poem purporting to be a vision, the aim of which was to inculcate perseverance ~~and~~ in all our efforts, and that we should struggle manfully with our life work.

Lydia Brown thought that our remarks should be more in thanks than criticism, on these original Essays.

Adjourned to meet at Saml. Boyce's. 11 of 5mo

Lynn 5th mo 6th

The Essay Meeting met by adjournment at the house of Samuel Boyce where between sixty and seventy were present.
The meeting was called to order by Wallace B. Allen, who read the 107th Psalm, after which Jabez Wood was appointed president, Gilbert C. Hoag, Mary Hacker and Lewis Roberts reading committee, and Mary B. Hawkes Secretary.
Dr Pinkham then read an original essay upon Alchemy and Chemistry, which was highly interesting and instructive.
He commenced by stating the term Alchemy to be the name of a pseudo-science, having for its object the transmutation of the baser metals into gold and silver, the discovery of the Philosophers Stone, the Alcahest or Universal Solvent and the Elixir of Life.
The Origin of Alchemy was involved in obscurity. Hermes Trismegistus is the reputed founder, Anno Mundi 2076.
The names of many other distinguished Alchemists were given, with interesting facts in regard to each
And though generally believed to be a set of crazy enthusiasts, many of them were undoubtedly able investigators, and their false ideas of Philosophy should be

attributed to the age in which they lived. And although the Alchemists did not attain the end for which they sought, yet they brought to light many important facts in regard to Chemistry. He spoke of Chemistry and the various uses to which it is applied. The farmer is especially indebted to it for it teaches him how to fertilize the soil. The manufacturer also, for by it he can convert rubbish into money. He commended it, not only for its interest, but for its great usefulness and hoped the time would come, when the course of study in our Schools should contain less of Greece and Rome and more of this grand Science. Much more was said in regard to these Sciences, which was very entertaining, and extracts were read from various Authors, some of them very ancient.

After Dr Pinkham had concluded a poem was read by Anna Hale entitled Faithfulness.

Louisa Hoag read an article which she said had been found in some one's pocket. The author did not give his or her name, as we should lose the opportunity of using the Yankee talent of guessing." The originators of the Essay Meeting were congratulated on their success, which had attended their efforts.

The Author had noticed the interest evinced by all. The older ones had been kindly invited and all seemed to act harmoniously. The importance of original Essays was suggested, and the hope expressed that there might be more on resuming the meetings.

The author concluded with the desire that we might all implore Our Heavenly Father's blessing, in everything in which we might engage. After the article was read there was many speculations as to who the Author might be, and it was advised that a committee be appointed to search peoples pockets.

The wish that there might be more original essays was expressed by several.

Samuel Boyce then read an amusing anecdote ~~entitled~~ from a book entitled "War on Christian Principles". after which the meeting adjourned to meet at the call of the executive committee.

Mary B. Hawkes Sec.

Fifth month 11. 1868.

The Evening [illegible] was held at the [illegible] Present [illegible] members and [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] aid [illegible] prevented from attending by inclement weather.

[illegible] Wood, the President, being detained by illness, at the request of the meeting J. Ellwood Paige opened the exercises by reading the 12th Chapter of Ecclesiastes, after which the Secretary's [illegible].

The meeting now entered into nomination to fill vacancies for the coming. The choice fell upon J. Ellwood Paige for President and Martha C. Oliver for Secretary.

Gilbert C. [illegible] [illegible], on behalf of the [illegible] Committee, [illegible] [illegible]. This was listened to with marked attention; a plea for Quakerism in its truest meaning. He commenced with the idea that creeds, however perfectly adapted to the wants of one generation, can at most only serve as aids to the next, which must go on in [illegible] work until having received new truths through all the [illegible] of the road the standard of today shall be more perfect than that of yesterday, the central idea always remaining the same. The possibility of this he proved by the [illegible] belief, that the "Holy Spirit" the "Inward Light" visits every human heart to guide and to comfort. If we have this faith firmly implanted we have only to keep open the spiritual eye and ear to be led into a[illegible].

[illegible] suggested that had the Quaker idea that God is no respecter of persons [illegible] in American society, the crime of Slavery [illegible], the treasure of the nation, the [illegible] have been saved us."

Upon the testimony of abstract [illegible] he [illegible] doubt whether [illegible] large [illegible] and [illegible] with [illegible] although [illegible] attained through these means.

The [illegible] mind illustrated the progress of the human mind [illegible] "purely spirit-ual worship". He compared it to a child's advance from the first [illegible] illustrated by objects and pictures, to an understanding of numerical ideas, from [illegible] higher abstrac-tions [illegible] intellect he can [illegible] and grasp the mysteries of the heavenly bodies' motions.

He supposed [illegible] the Divine economy, it may be the place and duty of Quakerism [illegible] high standard [illegible] abstract spiritual worship [illegible] until the ritualist shall have advanced to it. Meanwhile he [illegible] that [illegible] fearful of the effects of [illegible] insufficient [illegible] education which would strengthen [illegible] successfully the battle of life and [illegible]

[illegible] of our [illegible] among [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] its important work in a time when we are [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in order.

The [illegible] [illegible] one which [illegible] "work they could take with [illegible]" [illegible] upon the placing of an institution within [illegible] which should furnish the very first culture of the age not only to our own members but to all who [illegible] its benefits.

In conclusion we were reminded of the vast amount of philanthropic work performed by our early Fathers in the Church in [illegible] their [illegible] attention to the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] fathers and friends of this generation were [illegible] under the guidance of the power to which they so [illegible] pointed, to [illegible] [illegible] aiding them in the conquest over themselves, giving them discipline by which they shall become a [illegible] force in the world, and in turn [illegible] others and [illegible] in broader fields the [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible].

After [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] and [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] by the [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] an original poem by [illegible] [illegible] "The Lord of [illegible]". The [illegible] [illegible] was the [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] all gifts are consecrated to the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] of [illegible] and patient [illegible] From this time [illegible] unconsciously and [illegible] of all which he had [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] he made the happiness for which he has so long sought in vain.

The [illegible] of the [illegible] much enhanced by [illegible], and [illegible] concluded [illegible] thanks [illegible] The [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] of this evening [illegible] for [illegible] repeated, the meeting adjourned [illegible] on the 25th of the [illegible] month.

[illegible] C. [illegible]

[illegible]

The Lord of Marlboro' Hall.

Wealth of lawn and tree and blossom,
  Sparkling fountains' feathery fall,
Love and culture, taste and beauty,
  Thronged the walk to Marlboro' Hall.

Its ample rooms were rich with treasure –
  Costly gems and plate of gold –
Tap'stried wall and bust – and painting –
  Sculpture rare, and carving old.

Servants passed with muffled footsteps
  O'er the velvet-covered-floor,
Plenty reigned a king – and welcome
  Beckoned thro' the open door.

Gazing vaguely thro' the casement –
  Fair and princely, proud and tall,
Scarcely heeding all its splendors,
  Stood the Lord of Marlboro' Hall.

Frosts were stealing thro' the richness
  Of his glossy raven hair –
On his noble brow were traces
  Of the gathering lines of care.

Sadly stood he in the twilight—
Wondering at his heart's unrest—
Fain to try with reason's touchstone
The knotty questions of his breast.

I have delved amid the treasures
Of vast and varied lore—
I have traversed trackless oceans
Ancient land and far off shore.

Filled for me—my bursting coffers
Boast their ample golden hoard—
Loving wife and sunny children
Gather round my laden board.

Honor's pearl I've kept untarnished
Amid the great world's greed of gain—
Moist mine eye for tales of sorrow,
Quick mine ear for cries of pain.

Whence then comes my bitter portion?
Whence the wormwood and the gall?
Who shall bring me leaves of healing?
Said the lord of Marlboro Hall.

Long he watched the play of shadows
Noiseless on the moon lit floor,
Till a sound of softened sweetness
The evening breezes bore.

Where the tall and ancient elm trees
Drooped their branches low and long
O'er a humble cottage door way
Came a mother's evening song:

God of my fathers - my Savior & King
List to the tribute I tremblingly bring -
List to my plea.
For thy bountiful blessings & favors I raise
My heart's fullest song of thanksgiving & praise
For all are of Thee.

Daily the cup of thy mercies I quaff
Evil I fear not -- for thy rod and thy staff
Have comforted me.
Giver of goodness and light of my way
Teach me in joy and in sorrow to say
All is of Thee.

Silent stood the lordly listener
O'er his troubled heart, like rain
Or like softest angel-whispers
Fell the anthem and refrain.

Poor and lone, this saintly mother
Lifts to Heaven her notes of praise.
Filled with joy and rich with blessing
Has my soul no song to raise?"

"Henceforth on thine altar Father
Lie my heart, my hopes mine all"
Calmly joyful in the moon-light
Stood the [illegible] of Marlboro Hall.

Read at the Lynn Essay Meeting
5th Mo 15. 1868. by J. Ellwood Paige

11th Mo. 19th. 1868.

The Essay Meeting, according to adjournment, met at the house of Augustine Jones. Sixty-two persons were present. The large attendance at this meeting proves that the interest of last year still continues. The President commenced the exercises by reading the 1st Chap. 1st Epistle of Peter. The Secretary read a very satisfactory report of the last meeting.

The Executive Committee handed in the names of Lebbeus Hill for President - Maria A. Haines Secretary - Thomas Wood, Alice Jones Mary Louisa Neal - Reading Committee, who were chosen for officers for the ensuing month.

The President was then welcomed to the chair, and called upon the Reading Committee for their selections for the evening. They consisted of a beautiful little poem by Charles Dickens called "The Children" - it was read by Charles F. Coffin. This was followed by one of Longfellow's New England Tragedies entitled "John Endicott," which related to the persecutions and sufferings of the Quakers in the early years of the colony of Massachusetts when it was under the jurisdiction of Gov. Endicott - this was read by Sarah Hacker and was received with much interest. An original poem without a name was then read by Jabez Wood, which finished the exercises of the evening.

After passing a vote of thanks to the several readers and unknown author of the poem, the meeting adjourned to the house of Charles F. Coffin. 12th Mo. 3d 1868.

Martha A. Haines. Sec.

12th Mo. 3rd 1865.

The Essay Meeting was held at the house of Joseph Brown, the absence of Charles F. Coffin and wife making this change from the adjournment necessary. 46 persons were present. The Quarterly Meeting at New Bedford causing the attendance to be less than usual. The President opened the meeting by reading the 103rd Psalm.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted, and the Reading Committee called on for their selections for the evening.

They consisted, first, of a reading by C. A. Coffin, from a book with the title of "The Fells of Swarthmore Hall", this is the correspondence between members of a family by the name of Fell residing in England.

The father Judge Fell, filled an important position under the Commonwealth, his wife Margaret Fell, became an early convert to the religious principles of George Fox. In this correspondence which extends over the period of half a century, we have an account of the many trials arising from an open and intrepid maintenance of religious truths. The Chapter read related to the Origin and Development of Quakerism. Its Influence on National Laws. Moral and Religious Results. This was followed by the Poem, Mary Garvin, by

Whittier, read by Mary Hacker. Annie Kent then read a short allegory from the German, entitled Death and Sleep; this translation was by a member of the meeting. The last selection was a poem entitled "New England" written and read by Dr. Pinkham, setting forth the advantages of a home in this favored portion of our country, contrasted with the South and other parts of the world.

The meeting then had the pleasure of listening to some interesting remarks from Isaac Hinchman of Philadelphia, relating to the Friends in North Carolina, he said a great many people were joining the Society of Friends attracted by their firmness in resisting the demands made upon them during the war and their fortitude in bearing the punishments inflicted, on account of their refusal to bear arms or engage in any military duty. This was followed by a discussion as to who were members of the Essex Meeting, and where the next meeting should be, the first question was settled by declaring members only the younger portion of the society but cordially inviting all others to be present, who would be interested in so doing, for an answer to the last question, the meeting adjourned to the house of Wm. S. Boyce, 12th mo. 17th 1868.

Martha F. Haines. Secretary,

12th Mo. 17th 1868.

The [illegible] Meeting was held at the residence of Wm. S. Boyce, and was attended by seventy-five persons. Lillie Hill having assumed the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] of the previous meeting [illegible] read and approved.

The Executive Committee presented the name of Lewis H. [illegible] as Chairman, which was accepted by the meeting, and he assumed the duties of the [illegible] [illegible] with the [illegible] by the same Committee [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] as [illegible], and Geo. [illegible], Mrs. B. Bird and Annie W. Price, Reading Committee for the ensuing month.

Samuel [illegible] announced the [illegible] [illegible] of the Reading Committee, to be an essay, entitled The Stars and the Earth; which was read by [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] may be [illegible] with God and [illegible] to men. At the close he expresses the hope [illegible] [illegible] hearers, to use his own words, "that an [illegible] [illegible] clearness and [illegible] has been given to us (the [illegible]) [illegible] of the Omniscience, Omnipresence and Eternity of God.—

Immediately following the reading, the Chairman announced that a few moments would be given to the discussion of each subject presented during the evening. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for the paper having been [illegible] [illegible], Lewis H. [illegible] read a [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible], a poem by Fanny Eddy.
[illegible] [illegible] The [illegible] Physician Woman; a narrative illustrating the power of prayer and faith, and the healing [illegible] [illegible] to the [illegible].—

Jane D. [illegible] concluded the evening's reading with "The [illegible] [illegible]", a pleasing poem by Susan [illegible].

The [illegible], who conducted the Camp Meeting, having [illegible] [illegible] at the first meeting, [illegible] Wood read a portion of the minutes of the first meeting held, and remarked that the youthful Friends were really the members of the Association; which, at the same time he extended, to all persons present, an earnest welcome, and a cordial invitation to all future meetings. He further remarked, that in order to prevent misunderstanding all members would be notified within the next two weeks.—

Adjourned, to meet at Mary [illegible], on the evening of the 31st inst

Lucy J. Jones. Sec.

[illegible] 31st 1868.

The [illegible] Meeting met, at [illegible] [illegible] Mary Brown: present sixty-four persons. The Chairman's Scriptural selection was the [illegible] of John; having read which, the Secretary not being present, he called for the Report of the Reading Committee. In answer to this, [illegible] read "[illegible]" [illegible] Ka[illegible], a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] "[illegible]"

Following this, Augustine Jones entertained the company with several [illegible] selections from Burns, including "The Elegy on Capt. Matthew Henderson," and "The Cotter's Saturday Night." The spirited reading of these, brought [illegible] the familiar old pictures, causing all to rejoice a[illegible] [illegible] "[illegible]" [illegible] [illegible]"—

The Record of the previous meeting was now read and accepted.—

In continuation of the Committee's report, Dr. Dunham announced an Essay by Chas. Lamb, which, the reader being absent, he consented to give. The subject was "Imperfect Sympathies," and [illegible] treated of in Elia's most delightful style. Among those indebted to him for honorable mention were the Friends, [illegible] Quakers, with their ways, manner of worship, principles, and [illegible] [illegible] it would appear to be in "sympathy," [illegible] only an unwillingness "to live with them" [illegible] "imperfect." This, those of the "peculiar [illegible]" who listened to the reading, seemed disposed to [illegible], [illegible] the [illegible] part of the paper claimed their entire [illegible].

A poem by J. [illegible] Price, was received with a very unusual expression of [illegible] approval, and a vote of thanks tendered the author of "The Going Year."

It having been stated that the term for which the Executive Committee were appointed had expired, on motion of Gilbert C. [illegible], the entire Committee were re-elected to the office for the ensuing year. The business of the evening being concluded, [illegible] paid an earnest tribute to the success of the enterprize started one year before, and congratulated the members that the New Year would find it prosperous.

Adjourned to meet at Wm. [illegible] M[illegible]'s 2d mo. 14th 1869.

Lucy S. Jones Sec.

The Opening Year — by J. C. Prince

[illegible] with the [illegible] [illegible]
And the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] one moment [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Of the [illegible] world [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Of our [illegible] and our [illegible]:—
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]
Thro' [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible].

Tell us [illegible] the opening volume
When thou turnst [illegible] [illegible] [illegible],
[illegible] where our steps must wander,
[illegible] thou no auguries?

Shall the old accustomed evils
Of the past [illegible]!
'Gainst the lesson, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Shall [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]!

Shall there [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] night
Shall [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]?

Shall the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]—
Shall no [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

To the [illegible] forever!

Since the crimson wine cup madden
Once made victims of its might!
Since the sin and [illegible] cheer
Did the [illegible] appetite?

II

Since the blood-stained sword of battle
Never found its idle sheath!
Since our rights do seem to hold
The [illegible] of life and death!

Since [illegible] come rending
Spirits [illegible] Mammon's shrine?
Truths [illegible],
[illegible] called divine!

Shall no strong arm wrench the scepter
From the hands of [illegible] misrule?
Since [illegible] and the policy
And power become a party tool!

Shall the impoverished heart, unholy,
Mourn his sick and wrinkled years!
Cant and smooth hypocrisy
[illegible] up our altar stairs?

Shall professions gauge our virtue?
Sanctimonious airs, our love?
Tithe and fast and sounding prayers
Our title to salvation prove?

Pause and tell us, ere thy shadow
D[illegible] into death's eclipse
On the faint and feeble utterance
[illegible] on thine icy lips.

Ha[illegible] hopes been [illegible] pictures?
All our longings turned to naught?
Are the joys, the future promised,
Only webs our fancy wrought?

Is humanity a riddle
Yet unsolved by hearts of ours?
Are there naught but thorns upspringing
[illegible]!

Shall [illegible] voice [illegible] tender [illegible]
[illegible]!
Shall no [illegible]
[illegible]!

Faintly [illegible] answer
From the [illegible] of the past—
[illegible] time and land of [illegible]
Tones of ages old and vast.

"What the coming time shall bring thee
[illegible] tell.
In the [illegible] duty
Shall [illegible].

Pain th[illegible] and [illegible] grieving

[illegible] and vines;
[illegible], and [illegible];
[illegible] time.

[illegible] and [illegible]
[illegible] and [illegible];
[illegible];
[illegible].

Lynn 1st Mo. 14th 1869.

The Essay Meeting met by adjournment at the house of Wm. N. Melcher, Lewis Roberts in the chair. Present sixty-nine. Exercises were opened by the reading of the 14th Chapter of John followed by the reading and acceptance of the Secretary's report of the last meeting.

It being our duty to elect a new board of officers, Augustine Jones was unanimously chosen president, who upon taking the chair announced the nomination of Chas. A. Coffin for Secretary and of J. Elwood Paige, Carrie Beede and Lou N. Jones for reading committee, who were elected to fill those offices for the ensuing month.

The incumbent reading committee were much indebted to the kindness of Dr. B. B. Breed who opened their programme by reading an interesting and instructive essay upon "Recent African Travellers and their Discoveries." The essayist began by saying that but a few years ago, in the school-boy geography days of men not yet old, the geographical study of Africa was an easy one because too little was known of it to embody the perplexities and minutiae of civilized countries; that the generality of "unexplored region" was then applied to all the central part of the continent. In the progress of his essay, he proved how, in the light of recent explorations, pushed with unparalleled vigor and perseverance by the heroic Livingstone, Baker, Speke and Grant its study has become one of interest to the civilized world, and how the problem of its future, opening down thro' all time is fraught with great possibilities, possibilities of civilization, production, commerce and the spread of arts and science over a large part of the continent, which, rich in the poſsession of majestic rivers broad lakes ~~and~~ fertile plains and a genial climate, but awaits the kindly influence of a christian civilization to develop the latent germs of empire. The essayist reviewed in detail the Nile and its great overflows, the animal life infesting its waters and the surrounding thickets, the great lakes which form its source, so long a mystery, their great elevation above the sea level, the broad far reaching table lands, the mountain ranges which hem them in and the inhabitants and their characteristics in a manner highly instructive and entertaining to his listeners and which elicited from them at its close sincere expreſsions of gratitude to the obliging author.

Following the essay Peter McNeal read a few interesting extracts from a sermon, in which a beautiful simile was drawn between the theory of the Trinity and the effect " of a ray of light ~~which~~ in paſsing thro' a prism, giving as it does beside the shades caused by the overlapping of the colors, three distinct colors, a trinity of colors, yet all uniting in one common property and one common source.

Tho' not to the mind of the author furnishing an explanation of the Trinity, yet he thought by divesting the theory of three in one somewhat of its mystery, reaching the understanding so simply yet directly, it helped in a measure to understand it. As furnishing another simile to the same end, and giving evidence of the tendency of the human mind to draw from the anomalies in nature to aſsist it in comprehending the seeming anomalies in Scripture teaching, one of the friends present remarked the case of an

Indian, who when the theory of the Trinity was explained to him replied "Ah! yes, I see, water, snow and ice."

The exercises were closed by the reading of two beautiful and familiar poems by Longfellow entitled Sandalphon and The Goblet of Life by Alice Jones

The reading committee being here complimented for the good taste shown equally in the selection of poems and reader, after a few pertinent remarks by various members of the meeting, and a unanimous vote of thanks to the Essayist, the Essay Meeting adjourned to meet at the house of William Oliver Venhall on the evening of 1st Mo. 28th

Chas. A. Coffin. Sectary

Lynn 1st Mo 28th 1869

Essay Meeting met at house of Wm O. Newhall - Eighty-six were present - President Jones called the meeting to order with a promptness becoming his profession, but it is to be regretted that many of the members in seeming forgetfulness of the person we had put in the chair, came in after the opening of the exercises giving opportunity for the renewal of homilies upon promptness and considerably disturbing the early part of the reading. Exercises began by reading the 1st Chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Hebrews, followed by the Secretary's report of the last meeting. The reading committee were then called upon who introduced Dr. Joseph Peckham he having again kindly consented to search his portfolio in our behalf, which had on a previous occasion been the source of much pleasure to the meeting: this time were brought forth some interesting translations of the Odes of Horace, together with many short passages selected from his writing, which, striking for their pungency and aptness have passed into adages. This part of the exercises was especially interesting in its novelty and freshness, in the vigor and pithiness of the thoughts conveyed; and in the pleasant revival of familiar and unfamiliar aphorisms, which cannot too often be brot to mind, and which possess a peculiar interest in their striking illustration of the value of written language, preserving in all their pristine beauty and grandeur the thoughts, the glowing inspirations of the great and good of ages gone, and bringing them through all the changes and decay of intervening time to encourage and elevate mankind today.

A device simple yet wonderful, by means of which the mind of man now can go back to the ages before Christ was, retrace the steps of nineteen hundred years and mingle with the feelings and sympathies and unread the intricacies of the human mind of that period.

Following this J. Elwood Paige read a production purporting to have been written in description of a visit to a little community of Christians secluded among the mountains in Switzerland.

It seems to have been a purely imaginative production, the object of the writer being to delineate in his description of the ideal community, his conception of a perfect Christian life.

It is related that four brothers, with their families finding in each of the different churches around them something not in unison with their idea of a purely Christian society, decided to from a little community of their own and selected as the spot some old, deserted baronial estates among the mountains; purchasing these, they were soon joined by others seeking like themselves a more perfect system of Christian brotherhood than was to be found in any of the sects by which they were surrounded. Receiving still greater accessions to their numbers, they set about forming a social and church organization; after a season of earnest prayer and deliberation, they united upon a plan which acknowledged Jesus Christ as its chief corner stone, "In whom all the building fitly framed together, groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord„

Accepting as their motto, "One is your master and all ye are brethren„ "He who is greatest among you, let him be your servant„ they walked with humility and fear in the sight of God. Having faith in a spiritual worship, none were proscribed in their religious meetings, but with all was full liberty to speak as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Believing in a simplicity which is not formality in an education, Christian, yet not sectarian, in a spirituality which draws to and not from the Bible & in the government and duties of church and society which discriminate not on account of sex, but that all who have the image and spirit of God may do his work, this ideal society is left by the unity in the exercise of its beautiful Christianity a type of that millenial purity, which, in the fullness of time shall encompass all the earth.

The exercises closed with the reading of the beautiful poem of Whittier's, "The Cry of the Lost Soul" by Sarah Hacker.

After some comments upon the various exercises, which were received with much satisfaction the Meeting adjourned to meet at the house of Walter B. Allen on the evening of 2 Mo. 11th

Chas. A. Coffin, Secretary.

Lynn 2nd Mo. 11th 1869.

The Essay Meeting met at the house of Walter B. Allen numbering fifty. Scripture was read at 1st Corinthians 2nd Chap.

The following names were then presented as Officers for the ensuing month President, Gilbert Hoag, Secretary S. J. Ellis, Reading Committee Eliza M. Allen; Alice Jenkins, and Lebbeus Hill.

After the reading of the report of the Secretary Augustine Jones read a dissertation on "Christian Life" commencing with an apology for bringing before the company an article written during College life which was needless as the freshness of thought and convictions of truth therein would be creditable to one of many years experience in the higher life.

I shall not attempt to analyze his treatise or give the details but the practical lessons of Christianity which it taught were valuable may we not forget them.

The appeal made to the intellectual and emotional in our nature and which was so keenly felt by us testify to his ability to reach mind and heart we hope to hear from him again and often.

Selections were then read from J. G. Whittier and E. B. Browning by Martha Oliver, in a pleasing and effective manner.

Closing with J. G. Whittier's Creed read by Samuel Boyce, adjourned to meet at the house of Samuel Boyce 2nd, Mo. 25th.

S. J. Ellis, Secretary.

2nd Mo. 25th 1867.
At the house of Samuel Boyce the Essay meeting met to the number of Seventy. Scripture reading by the President from Paslm 51st. After the usual silence the report of the last meeting was read and approved.

William O. Newhall then read Extracts addressed to the younger portion of the Society of "Friends by Jonathan Grubb showing the interest felt and the longing to address the younger members to encourage them while in youth to accept an inheritance that fadeth not away.

He showed what to seek and leave unsought all abstruse questions and what appeared inconcievable to them advising for explanation and comfort the Bible and its teachings. It was not mere doctrines but zeal that worked such wonders in our early days and he entreated one, and all, to become as instruments in His hands to uphold the truth in simplicity and spirituality

If we were satisfied with our principles it was our duty to carry them out in practice that through a truly missionary spirit and faithfulness in Church arrangements be instrumental in gathering in Christ's fold the young and strong.

his attributes to the Christian the cheerful smile the hearty laugh social gathering were not only lawful but expedient.

He portrayed a delightful picture of a nation of Quakers, no fighting no slavery an unpaid ministry no restrictions to the poor and unlearned the freest scope in religion both in public and private life, the cultivation of the arts of peace, all calculated to lessen human suffering and enhance happiness through the faith and practice of Friends.

He fully believed the day would come when all might acknowledge the truth of Quakerism and called upon us not to neglect our privileges or our position in the Christian world with a farewell to "bear the yoke in our youth" that we might gather fruit unto life Eternal.

Jebez Hood next read from Hugh Miller on the subject of the "Creation", the science of which the Author treats united with his religious zeal led him often in thought to the plan of the Creator and through his industry and genius he has left much of a high order to interest and improve There is no science more instructive to the thinking mind and the more intimate we become with Geology the more appreciable become nature and her hidden mysterys.

George Jones and Sarah P. Hill read from Authors satisfying to all present.

Adjourned to meet at Joseph Brown's 3rd Mo. 11th, at 8 O'clock.

Secretary L. J. Ellis.

3rd Mo. 12th 1869.

The Essay meeting was held at the house of Joseph [illegible]. This was one of the largest meetings of the season, there being 84 persons present, and was opened by the reading of the [illegible]th Chap. of John by Gilbert Hoag President. The Secretary next read a very satisfactory report of the last meeting.

The Executive Committee presented the name of J. Elwood Page for President. Charles A. Coffin, Lydia M. Austin, and S. Ella Page for Reading Committee and Lillie M. Neal for Secretary for the next month.

Lebbeus Hill as Chairman of the Reading Committee announced the first selection to be an Essay by James Boyce. it was a very interesting and instructing one which compares the present time with the past shewing that the world is growing better instead of worse as many believe. [illegible] the life of Wolsey as an example of the past, his great fault was ambition, He shows that the Lobbying at Washington is comparatively innocent to the the plots of Wolsey and King Henry the 6th.

Alice Jenkins then read a very pretty little poem entitled The Stormy Petrel.

J. H. Crosman read a description of Mount Pisgah written by T. J. Heady. The evenings reading was concluded with a very beautiful poem entitled. The Legend of the Lake read by Alice Jones.

Gilbert Hoag presented the following resolution which was unanimously adopted by the meeting.

Resolved that the wives and husbands of all members of the society of Friends, have all the privileges in the Essay meeting which Friends enjoy.

The meeting then adjourned to the house of Peter M. Neal. 3rd Mo. 25th 1869.

Nellie M. Neal. Sec.

57

At the [illegible] Meeting held at J. & M. Neals 2nd Mo. 25, 1867. There were 70 persons present. It was opened by the reading of the 51st Chap. of Isaiah by the President Edward Page. Charles A. Coffin as Chairman of the Reading Committee announced the first selection to be an Astronomical Lecture by James Edw. Oliver.

He first speaks of the formation of the Earth. it is supposed that this was once a vast sea of melted substance as it cooled there was a crust formed which as it cooled still more it shrunk away leaving this crust too large for it. This crust must be made to fit the inside so it is drawn together and thrown up in some places forming mountains the same as the rind of an apple shrivles and is drawn together forming ridges in baking.

He estimates the earth to have been at least twenty million years in reaching its present state. He next speaks of the different structure of the stars. he mentions the middle one in Orions sword as being no star but simply flaming hydrogen. He describes light as a series of little waves running out from the star into infinity each wave being about one fifty millionth of an inch.

The question was asked where the water came from in the well on the top of Mt. Washington and why it did not run off. James Edw. Oliver thought there must be higher land near it and that it had a clay bottom though it was clear dug in the loose stones, someone suggested that we should appoint a committee to investigate it next summer.

P. M. Neal then asked James Edw. if he would explain how we know that the nebula are hot hydrogen. he says let the rays from the star pass through a prism on to some white substance and you will have some of the colors of the rainbow but some of the colors will be wanting these are supplied by dark lines, you can ascertain by the colors and shadows of what substance the star is composed, in the same way you can tell some solids but not all, it has been ascertained that there are gold and iron in the sun.

George N. Jones then read a pretty little poem by Elizabeth Browning entitled "Sounds."

The next selection was "A Forest Hymn." by Bryant. read by Augustine Jones.

A very impressive poem entitled "Endurance." read by George N. Jones concluded the evenings reading.

The meeting then adjourned to the house of Peter M. Neal. 4th Mo 8th 1869.

Nellie M. Neal. Sec.

Fourth Month 15. 1869

The "Essay Meeting" met by adjournment at the house of [illegible] Neal, J. Ellwood Peirce in the chair. After the usual reading of Scripture and the acceptance of the Secretary's report, the Executive Committee presented the following names for the new board of officers, George A. Jones, President; Martha C. Oliver, Secretary; N. Mortimer Hawkes, Walter B. Allen and Lucy Ellis as Reading Committee.

These candidates being unanimously elected, and the new President having assumed his duties, the meeting cordially welcomed Augustine Jones to the table. He had been prevailed upon to give us a second time the benefit of his valuable and interesting Essay upon "True Quakerism". Nearly a year had elapsed since the former reading at which time the meeting was unusually small. Those who then listened to his earnest plea for the faith which many of us profess, but which is perhaps to comparatively few, a living reality; were no less interested, than the many who now for the first time enjoyed the privilege. After suitable time allowed for conversation upon the many suggestive points in this article, we were pleasingly entertained by a beautiful little poem from the German, read by Charles A. Coffin.

A proposition was now made that Augustine Jones and J. Ellwood Peirce be invited to furnish copies for publication of the Essay and Poem, which together constituted the literary exercises of the meeting held upon the 11th of 5th month 1868, and

Dr Pinkham, Jabez Hood and Martha C. Orne were appointed to make this request.

It was decided to consider this the only session in the season. The meeting accordingly adjourned to reassemble at the call of the Executive Committee.

Martha C. Orne, Secretary.

Upon the 11th of Eleventh Month 1869, the Essay having reassembled for the season at the house of Nathan Breed, 48 persons present. In the absence of George H. Jones, the Twenty first psalm was read by J. Ellwood Paige. At the close of this exercise, the President not yet arriving, the present occupant was chosen to fill the chair for the evening.

No member of the Reading Committee being present and no person in the audience being prepared with reading matter, the report of the Printing Committee was called for. They informed the meeting that Augustine Jones expressed unwillingness for his Essay to take permanent form until he should find time to revise it pretty fully. Owing to his absence from home there seemed no immediate prospect of his doing this, therefore the committee was released from further service.

A vote was now passed, that when we adjourned it should be to the evening of the 23rd inst. This change was made on account of a Tea Party appointed for the 25th inst., by the "Friends Union for Christian Work."

All necessary business having been transacted, it now seemed best to take a short recess.

Upon again coming to order; that we might not entirely lose our character as a Literary association, these hastily selected poems were read: Hagar, by N. P. Willis, and Whittier's Barclay of Ury. After accepting an invitation to hold our next meeting at Joseph G. Brown's, we adjourned, to pass the remainder of the evening as a Social circle, sincerely regretting that we had no coffee & supper to [illegible] visitors who had given us their company.

Martha E. Crane Secretary.

[illegible] 11 [illegible]
[illegible] meeting [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]
and commenced by reading the [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] Charles
A. [illegible] prized [illegible]
[illegible] Hill [illegible]
Martha Hand, and Thomas [illegible]
[illegible]mills; - all of which [illegible]
the [illegible] record.
The auditing committee [illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] to the [illegible]
[illegible]. The first [illegible]
[illegible], called [illegible]
[illegible] called the [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] with [illegible] in [illegible] from our minds [illegible] the merits.

[illegible] d, and [illegible] is not [illegible] to the [illegible]

[illegible] of the [illegible] and the [illegible] in [illegible] the meeting [illegible]

[illegible]

Sarah F. [illegible] Sec

[illegible]

to accommodate [illegible] desired to attend a lecture, [illegible] to given in the evening [illegible] should adjourn. [illegible] present.

The small attendance was [illegible] recent storm, and the [illegible] of the streets. The President being absent, C. Elwood Rose was chosen [illegible] [illegible] read chapter of [illegible]. After the usual silence, the secretary [illegible] read accepted. [illegible] read [illegible] selection "[illegible] Whit[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the community [illegible] whom they so [illegible]. [illegible] a wild [illegible] of [illegible] white missionaries [illegible].

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible], [illegible] the post-[illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] of music, which may both [illegible] [illegible] instructive. A selection [illegible] [illegible] entitled "The old Clock." It [illegible] us back to the days of our childhood [illegible] [illegible] we [illegible] [illegible] friends; "[illegible] [illegible] well that the future has [illegible], [illegible] not be unmarked with a dial [illegible] [illegible]." After a few [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

On 12th month 23d 1869. the Essay Meeting attended by fifty-two members was held at the house of Wm A. Brown. The President being absent Jabez Wood opened the evening exercises by reading the twentieth Psalm. Sarah B. Hill then read the record of the previous Meeting, which was approved.

It being the regular meeting for electing a new board of Officers, to serve for the ensuing month, Lothrop Hall was chosen President. Mary L. Bailey Secretary; Lucy C. Jones, E. Georgie Pinkham and Mary Haines Reading Committee.

J. Ellwood Paige then announced that the time for which the Executive Committee were elected to serve, would expire before the next meeting, The following motion was then made by G. C. Hoag, Moved, that a Committee of six persons be appointed by the Chair to report at the next meeting the names for an Executive Committee to serve for the ensuing year, Also that it take into consideration the propriety of admitting other persons to membership of the Essay Meeting and if they think best to report some plan for such admission. The names of [illegible] C. Hoag, Joanna C. Oliver, Alice [illegible], Martha Haines, [illegible] Ward and J. Elwood Paige, were appointed for said nominating Committee.

The President now called for the report of our Reading Committee. [illegible] P. Hoag, Chairman of said Committee, announced that Augustine Jones had kindly consented to entertain the meeting with an account of his travels in Europe, after which J. Elwood Paige would favor us with an original poem.

Augustine Jones commenced his remarks by saying that his was entirely a business and not a pleasure trip to Europe, although he had of course derived much pleasure from it. and surely he imparted both pleasure and profit to those who listened to his interesting and instructive narration, for which we are much indebted to him.

Next we were gratified by listening to a beautiful poem by J. Elwood Paige.

We are always glad to hear from J. Elwood Paige, he has an [illegible] [illegible] this last production. I believe [illegible] [illegible] satisfied with it himself, but [illegible] remarked by one of the members, [illegible] will let us hear from him often, [illegible] excuse him from ever writing [illegible] a further poem than [illegible] requisite [illegible] entitled "The Three Visitors"

The meeting was adjourned to meet at the home of [illegible] on 1st month 8th 1890.

M. L. A. Barry,
Secretary,
P

Sixty-five persons were present at the Essay Meeting held at the house of Ellen M. Neal on 1st month 3rd/1870.
The President opened the meeting by reading the 111th Psalm.
The records of the previous meeting having been read and approved the President called for the report of the Committee appointed to nominate an Executive Committee. The following ~~was~~ report was then read, "Your Committee propose the names of Augustine Jones, Anna M. Pierce, Wm Mitchell Nunn, E. Morgan Pinkham, Thomas Ward and Lucy H. Jones for Executive Committee the present year. We would respectfully suggest that all Friends should be considered members of this Association; also that others who are sufficiently interested in these meetings, to give us their company, should have the same liberty."

For the Committee

Th. Collins."

A few remarks were made in connection with the report. Augustine Jones said that he had wished to call the attention of the meeting to the same idea in regard to membership, as had been suggested, by the Committee.

I think the Meeting was well pleased with this decision, and the report was unanimously accepted.

The Reading Committee announced the following programme for the evening, "An Essay written and to be read by James P. Boyce; a continuation of Augustine Jones's European travels; a Poem written and read by Mary E. Olive."

James P. Boyce gave us a very interesting Essay on the book of Esther, showing how rich is this book in the wonderful display of divine power and the necessity of trusting or depending upon the Almighty, and as a sure refuge in time of need. He also spoke of an important question now being agitated,—the withdrawal of the Bible from our public schools. He says, may God grant that it may never be our lot to see secular knowledge alone taught in our Schools and Colleges unsustained and unsanctified by Scriptural knowledge

Augustine Jones's continuation of his European travels was extremely interesting. He entertained us in a delightful manner for about an hour.

Owing to the lateness of the hour, and knowing we had had enough brain food for one night." It was decided to postpone the "Poem to be read by M. E. Oliver."

The meeting was adjourned to meet at the house of Charles H. Collins.

M. L. C. Maury,
Secretary

June 14th 1870.

Our Meeting by adjournment met at the house of Charles F. Griffin; Society [illegible] seemed [illegible] with the recent meeting [illegible] the organization of the Society [illegible] all the literary exercises [illegible] that not only the social element may [illegible], but that the intellectual [illegible] [illegible] may [illegible] the [illegible] of the meetings that they may [illegible] bear the name of the Literary Society;

The [illegible] Selection for the evening was the [illegible] Psalm. The Secretary then read the report of the previous meeting which was accepted; The Executive Committee presented the following names to constitute the Board of Officers for the ensuing month: i.e. Owen [illegible], Secretary [illegible] Alice Jones,— Reading Committee Ch. [illegible] Louisa Hoag and Geo Herbert, all of whom were [illegible] elected.

The literary exercises of the evening were introduced in the form of a Select [illegible] and [illegible] Chosen [illegible]. The articles [illegible] original not [illegible] [illegible].

The opening article was a [illegible] upon "Point of Life" showing how differently do we look back at this period [illegible] [illegible] Some see everything in [illegible] to others everything is clothed in a sombre hue; again another class have a way of habitually looking thro' microscopic vision, thus enlarging the little circle of life that comes into their line of vision until they think it comprises the whole world. Then we always looking thro' the wrong end of the telescope, some there are who have divested it of all these incumbrances. To them the world exhibits a beautiful scene as varied as it is grand.

Following this is a beautiful poem entitled "My Sad Still [illegible]". Its various thought and deep feeling, [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible]. Some portions are very touching, the delicate affection to Mother, Father and Sister, show clearly a keen appreciation of their love and sympathy.

"O! it is for him who in childhood was reared
[illegible] pride of a mother, nor knew her tears,
Who knows not [illegible] [illegible] who guarded his sleep
With his [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] those who [illegible] love of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] who [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in the [illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible],

---

the words [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible];
Like Memory music [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible], mingling [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] a [illegible] welcome, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]."

[illegible] Christian [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. The [illegible],
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. The [illegible] is the
[illegible] [illegible] Christian [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] of [illegible] [illegible], together with a [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

"O [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]" [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] "[illegible]". [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
that if we fail to please an earthly friend
how quickly do we review our every thought
[illegible] [illegible] to see wherein we have erred,
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to please our God, how
lightly lies that sin — a touching allusion was
then made to the sadness of heart, the
[illegible] of spirit, caused by [illegible] [illegible],
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible],

"[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] is gone
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible],
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]."

A very [illegible] little Poem [illegible] "The tide" was
next read, the [illegible] rhythm making it very
musical.

The [illegible] Poem, "The [illegible] Prophet",
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of its [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] of [illegible], must have [illegible]
[illegible] contributed by [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible], as is the Charitable [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] — the [illegible] of a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

Owing to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] entertaining. The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] reading [illegible] [illegible] to Mary C. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Birds [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the Cathedral.

Adjourned to meet at Nine o'clock on Fifth day the 1st of next month.

Caroline M. [illegible]
Secretary.

Lynn 2 Mo. 17th 1870.

90 Ninety persons were present at [illegible] held at the house of William Melche.

The exercises were opened by the [illegible]

The Report of the previous meeting [illegible]

[illegible] Committee [illegible] the reading of [illegible] Ruskin [illegible]. [illegible] two neighbors named [illegible] wont to be called, "Rusty Joe", and "Polished Sam".

The names were characteristic of the men, one being of a cross disposition, short and rude in his dealings with men, the other always kind, [illegible]. The first [illegible]

[illegible] everything in order, with the [illegible] were kept in order [illegible] a little creaky were made to roll easy, [illegible]

[illegible] Rusty Joe [illegible]

[illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] —

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the commanding tones of his father's words as he [illegible] upon the [illegible];

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] in the midst of a [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] wheels would not [illegible]. [illegible] continued all [illegible] day.

Thus [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], one had been successful in all his undertakings, the other had failed in all.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the unfortunate [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] his [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] was [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] story, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and then [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible],

"O [illegible] Queen Rose! whose essence [illegible] sight
[illegible] there [illegible];
[illegible] fight;
Thou only God; there is no God beside"

[illegible]

[illegible] read [illegible] the [illegible] Christianity, the author read an entity [illegible], logically [illegible], and [illegible] a subject [illegible] interest and [illegible], [illegible] remaining chapters at some future meeting.

Adjourned to meet at the house of [illegible] two weeks from this evening.

[illegible]
Secretary.

On the 17th of 2nd mo. 1870, the Essay meeting was held at the house of Augustine Jones.

Some 100 persons were present.

[illegible] Dame, the President, opened the meeting by reading the [illegible] ch. of [illegible] Corinthians.

The Secretary's record of the preceding meeting was read and accepted.

The Chairman of the Ex. Com. then presented the following names for officers for the ensuing month. Pres. [illegible] C. Howe, Secretary, Alice Jenkins, – Reading Com., Abby Wood, Mary [illegible] Harris, Alice [illegible], – [illegible] [illegible] appointments were [illegible] by the meeting.

The report of the Reading Com. was then called for. The Chairman had announced at the previous meeting that the Committee would avail [illegible] original contributions from any who might be disposed to offer them.

A variety of entertaining matter was presented. First came an article on the Cities of the Bible, read by Martha C. [illegible]. The writer gave us an interesting description of Jerusalem the [illegible] of the Jewish nation, and of the mountains round about, – of Bethany, the home of Lazarus, Martha and Mary, – of Bethlehem, the city of David, the birth place of Christ, – of [illegible], memorable for the association with the connection of Paul, — and of Palmyra or Tadmor, the city of Palms.

After this a poem on Eternity was read by Louise W. Tracy. Then some Geographical Charades.

Then came a discourse on the virtues and failings of a certain venerable and formidable personage known as Mrs. Grundy, — herself a most inconsequent character, full of all manner of contradictions, usually carrying about with her a pair of spectacles to magnify the faults of her neighbors, and a tongue ever ready to discourse upon their misdoings. Exercising a wholesome restraint over her subjects when her rule is limited, but powerful for evil when her reign is absolute.

A few words to Mission School teachers were then read, touching the relation between their teaching and example, — warning them lest the child, while he learns from their lips the commandment "Thou shalt not covet," should find in their dress strong temptation to disobedience. After some discussion upon the subject suggested by this paper a poem was read upon "A Day in June and a Day in October."

Then followed some advertisements wh. should bring numerous clients and patients to the doors of our friends.

Then came two chapters of a Second Book of Chronicles. In one of these the author pleasantly described a great gathering of Israel (which is in interpretation, the people called "Friends) at one of the meetings of the Fragment Society. The speeches of those in authority were recorded and some of the good deeds of the association.

The second ch. was the record of another great gathering at the meeting house on which occasion a strong appeal was made on behalf of the "Little Wanderers", with marked effect upon the hearers.

The literary exercises of the evening were closed by the reading of a poem entitled The Intercessor.

Adjourned to meet again on the 3rd of 3rd mo. 1870

Alice Jenkins, Secretary.

Jan. 5th [illegible]

The [illegible] [illegible] assem[illegible] third day evening, third month, fifte[illegible] at the house of Nathan [illegible] on [illegible] street. About sixty [illegible]

The meeting was opened [illegible] of the third chapter of the [illegible] John. The Secretary's re[illegible] have been next in order, but [illegible] circumstances, it was o[illegible]

The customary time [illegible] [illegible] and the following names were [illegible] to serve for the ensu[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

It was then announced [illegible] the former Readings [illegible] accordance with the [illegible] to all to contribute original a[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

The Lone Chair [illegible] was read by [illegible]

Next in order [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] home, where every [illegible] [illegible] "the seed of kindness sown in [illegible] or [illegible]" in [illegible] on the [illegible] found one in yet the [illegible] [illegible] there, that "the [illegible] was [illegible]"

[illegible]

[illegible] "alone and weary in a land of [illegible] and thorns." [illegible] that [illegible] were willing to leave it [illegible] to save [illegible] lives", who added the [illegible] whose sins were [illegible] the great sea, saying the [illegible] [illegible] effect [illegible] [illegible] but [illegible] ceived the [illegible] before [illegible]

Lastly, a beautiful poem was read, [illegible] Martha Oliver, founded upon the [illegible] sixth verse of the thirteenth chapter [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]
that no one could depict [illegible]
some of these [illegible]
[illegible] that we have [illegible]
faith that in our [illegible]
[illegible] their dwellers
[illegible]."

But at last when [illegible]
are tried [illegible]
line and [illegible] till [illegible]
are all unknown in Heaven".

At the close of the [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible] at [illegible] Brown on
[illegible] two weeks from the [illegible]
[illegible]

Abbie [illegible]
Secretar.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] sixty [illegible] by the [illegible].
[illegible] has filled in our school.
[illegible] Harriet E. Gilbert of Ohio, which
[illegible] very highly appreciated by [illegible]
[illegible] entitled [illegible]
"The School Days" was read by Marianna
[illegible] A number of the Reading
[illegible] commenced. The [illegible]
[illegible] Leeds had kindly given
[illegible] a brief account of his [illegible]
[illegible] the Alps of Switzerland. [illegible]
[illegible] was exceedingly interesting.
[illegible] very delightful description
[illegible]
[illegible] and habits of the people
[illegible] instance was related by him [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

They each came to the [illegible]

[illegible]

criminal [illegible]

[illegible]

many of you have the Magazine, co[illegible]

[illegible]

in thinking that it was not [illegible]
by our [illegible] very drawing that [illegible]
and that "Sound and Sight" [illegible]
[illegible] that.

The exercises [illegible]
together original [illegible]
"Thanks Suggested [illegible]
[illegible]"

The second was a [illegible]
was [illegible].

The other [illegible]

[illegible]

Tuesday [illegible]
would and like's [illegible]

[illegible] ch is hoped that all [illegible]
hands with undivided the [illegible]
spirit of "trust, but in thine that
[illegible]
[illegible] in our hearts." [illegible]

The meeting then [illegible]
met at the house of Daniel [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] advisement, with the abuse of [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] encourage, [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] would not [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] for [illegible]

and [illegible] Hill for Hunting Course [illegible]

[illegible]

The first a little [illegible]

[illegible]

the pen of [illegible] the author [illegible]

realize that the [illegible] all [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

of the utter darkness of the night, under the [illegible]

by [illegible] followed by the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] of mankind, the diffidence of [illegible]

[illegible] which I have gleaned the [illegible]

the answer must be made to [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] pleased [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] in the [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] of [illegible]
[illegible] by [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] to his past and present position in the world,
seemed to be that his mission is to sympathize with
[illegible] [illegible].

The "Angel's Story" in touching verse,
[illegible] Procter, was read by Mary [illegible].

[illegible] the child's look so [illegible]

[illegible] scene which so contrasted with his altered

[illegible] [illegible] placed some roses in his hands. The [illegible]
[illegible] angels
[illegible] being from

[illegible] the reading- written [illegible]
of young ladies then and now. [illegible]
"The 'Visitors,' a [illegible]
[illegible]
to meet at the house of [illegible]
day evening. "Fourth mo [illegible]

[illegible]

Lynn, 11th mo. 10th 1870.

The first Essay Meeting of the season was held at Samuel Boyce's, on Ocean Street, the 27th of 10th mo.

Owing to the unfavorable state of the weather, only forty-five were present, about half the usual number. In absence of the President, Peter M. Neal opened the meeting by reading the fourteenth chapter of John. A few moments of silence followed, after which, the Executive Committee presented the following names to constitute a board of officers for the ensuing month. For President, Charles A. Coffin. Secretary, Abbie M. Cosman. Reading Committee, Kate Dame, Wm. A. Brown and Lydia M. Austin.

James P. Boyce first made a few remarks relative to our thankfulness for being spared to meet again, when so much desolation and suffering had been spread around us from various causes, during the intervening time. He then read a Persian Legend, entitled "The King and Cottager." A mighty queer old monarch," becoming ashamed of his old pallace resolved to build a new one, if a suitable site could be chosen.

After searching far and wide through all his vast domains he at last found a charming spot; but there was one draw-back, upon it was a widow's cot.

After pleading with her, but in vain, to have it removed, he commenced his pallace on the land adjoining.

"That I have wronged the meanest
No honest tongue may say
So bide you in your cottage
Good woman while you may"

"For so my loyal people
Who gaze upon the sight
Shall know that in oppression
I do not take delight."

Thus for years they stood, the pallace and the cot; and the king lived and prospered.

At last Fortune tired of smiling for once put on a frown. Two wicked subjects, who had for a long time wished to deprive him of his throne, contrived a plot by which he should be slain.

Meeting in a retired place behind the widows cottage, she overheard them and forthwith revealed it to the king; and, he was at last heard to exclaim. "A widow's humble cottage has propped a monarch's throne."

Augustine Jones then read an original

essay. The Subject "A Search for Truth."
It was ably written and gave us much to think about. He classed the various ideas which he wished to present, under five different heads.

I. The powers of mind by which we arrive at a knowledge of truth, and the reliance is placed on those powers.

II. The power and responsibility of mind in imparting truth to other minds including ideas, respecting true and false teaching. III. Different states of mind for the reception of truth and some of the shadings imparted to truth by the mind itself. IV. A few of the most important intellectual revolutions as recorded in history.

V. The infinity and immutability of truth.

"At every stage of mental growth the solemn life-question presents itself, what shall we believe?"

By the ancient Sophists truth was not considered as having existence, for they disbelieved in the existence of everything. Truth means literally a proposition. We obtain a knowledge of these propositions by our senses, intuition and faith. But the most important thing of all is to be able to impart these ideas after we have ourselves received them.

We are all exerting an influence either for good or evil, upon those around us; and an idea or thought dropped accidentally ~~about~~ by us may prove of great benefit to another.

"It may have no seeming value today but it is a polished stone which fits somewhere in the universal arch."

The earliest teaching is by example. Children naturally try to imitate those that are older, so that we should be very careful both in regard to our actions and thoughts lest they be misguided. One thing besides a reliance on demonstrative reasoning is necessary; and that is a reliance on "Faith". This quality accomplishes great things.

Maria Brown then read a short poem, entitled "The Grace that faileth not"

Lastly an original poem was read by Martha C. Oliver; but it disappeared very mysteriously. It bore no subject, yet it was beautiful and very appropriate for our first gathering. It seemed to embody the same ideas that James S. Boyce had presented in the form of poetry.

A few moments were then spent in discussing some few points in the Essay; and a vote of thanks was given to the Essayist of the evening.

The meeting then adjourned to meet at Peter M. Neale's, two weeks from that evening, 11th mo, 16th 1876.

H. W. Crosman.
Secretary.

11th mo, 20th 1875.

The last meeting assembled at Peter M. Neale. About seventy present. The president, Charles A. Coffin first read the fourth chapter of 1st Timothy.

The Reading Committee then offered their first selection, a short poem, entitled "Life's Battle," translated from the German, which was read by James P. Boyce.

Following this Martha E. Oliver, read an original article upon "Individual Responsibility". She wished it to be distinctly understood that she was not the author; and it was a very noticeable fact, that the other readers did not wish to be thought the authors of the several pieces which they read.) An amusing piece entitled "Law, versus, Saw," was then read by Charles A. Coffin. After which an animated discussion followed upon "Lawyers". Augustine Jones being a representative of that order of individuals was called upon to defend his cause. Which he did nobly. Among other things, he said he thought if ever a person had Gods work to do, it was a lawyer.

Peter M. Neal then said that he thought that the people had become (so accustomed to rail at the lawyers, that they did it almost without thinking from mere habit.

It reminded this of a guide post, which in his youthfull days had become a shooting mark for all the boys returning from their gunning expeditions.

At last it came to be such a habit that no one thought of passing it, without leaving there his mark. So he thought it was with the lawyers, they had become as it were, the guide post of the people.

The second original article was read by Lizzie Collins. The title "The Representative Woman". It was a very spicy article and seemed to be written by one well versed with the names of fashionable trappings. After treating of the various things that might be worn by women, on that great occasion when they should enter the Senate Chamber, it closed with this forcible line "But what will they wear on their heads?" Different members then took part in a discussion upon "Womens Rights". Some believed in women having all the rights to which men are entitled both in the church and in the state. Others believed in their having rights in a certain direction, provided they would not vote; and still ~~a few~~ others thought that the mass of women had all the rights that they needed or wanted.

A few individuals thought there was a certain point beyond which women could not go; but as no man dared define that point, we are left still at liberty to keep up with our superiors in intellect, if we can.

The Chairman of the Reading Committee then read, in conclusion, an amusing letter from a son of Erin to his cousin. Being just after election it seemed very appropriate.

The usual time of holding the next meeting being Thanksgiving evening, it was decided to meet at Wm. A. Newhall's, fifth day evening 12th mo, 1st.

Abbie H. Bodman.
Secretary.

Lynn 11th mo. 30th 1870

Evening meeting met at William O. Newhalls. In the absence of the President, Edward Page opened the meeting by reading an appropriate Poem. The report of last meeting was then read and approved.

The time for which the Officers were appointed having expired, Owen Dame was chosen President, who immediately took the chair and proceeded with the election of the other officers, viz. Secretary Mary E. Ellis. Reading Committee. Dr. Pinkham. Annie Page and Mary E. Oliver.

The report of the Reading Committee was then called for. The first selection was a beautiful poem, entitled "The Prayerless One" read by Martha C. Oliver in a manner which did the subject ample justice.

Following this Owen Dame read an article on "The Story of the Civil Oath." The writer first gives Dr. Webster's definition of an oath which is a solemn affirmation, or declaration made with an appeal to God for the truth of what is affirmed and adds, "the appeal to God in an oath implies that the person imprecates his vengeance and renounces his favor, if the declaration is false; or if the declaration is a promise, the person invokes the vengeance of God if he should fail to keep it.

101 With this definition the writer seems in doubt whether any one can, without the greatest presumption take an oath. He says the ordinary plea for swearing men is that of practical utility: that it increases the certainty that witnesses will speak the truth; but he believes that the result is in many cases perjured witnesses & officers of the law.
He thinks the promise of a truthful man will be just as binding without as with an oath; and that the oath of an untruthful man will not make it binding.
For these and many more reasons, he thinks it would be better for the State to dispense with the oath, and require witnesses simply to affirm, making false testimony a penal offense."

William J. Newhall then read an original article on "Thanksgivings".

Smith Elwood Price read a beautiful original poem, which if we may judge by the expression it called forth was duly appreciated by all.

A motion was made and carried that he should be chosen Poet of the Essay Meeting, and that a poem would be expected at each meeting he however rather objected to this, by saying his friends must think he had an iron constitution, as it required much time and labor to compose anything he would be willing to read before such an audience. But we would suggest that the above mentioned poem be read at a future meeting, as it is difficult to comprehend such an able production by simply once hearing it.

Adjourned to meet at [illegible] [illegible] at the call of the Executive Committee.

[illegible]

[illegible]

The Essay Meeting assembled on the 22nd of 12 mo, at the house of Charles F. Coffin— A goodly number present, numbering 76.

James P. Boyce read the 4th Chapter of 2nd Corinthians, after which the Secretaries report was read and accepted; being in the absence of the Secretary S. P. Hill was chosen for the evening— The Chairman of the reading committee then announced an original Essay from Augustine Jones entitled "John Woolman".

This Essay was intensely interesting and instructive. Of the inestimable qualities of such a man put forth in such an able manner could not fail of being appreciated by all.

John Woolman was a Christian. The very word we live for that is to be Christ like. Imagine the mere child to steal away from his companions and read a portion of God's Holy Word— The example! Let us more closely clasp the precious book and truthfully say "Blessed Bible how I love it" [illegible]

The Critic was then read by J Elwood Paige [illegible] appropriate, following the Essay showing how true and simple his record then tracing lovingly the tracks of Woolman's feet— A selection from the writings of Mark Twain was then read, by Dr. Pinkham which was characteristic of the author in wit and truthfulness—

In Heaven we shall not be asked, whether we be fishermen, hewers of stone or drawers of water, but let us strive to be "door keepers in the house of our God." The Chairman then announced an original Essay entitled "Life." read by Mary E. Oliver, the author says to be truly alive we must use all our functions and in that degree that God desires. Most certainly we must, or what account can we give for time and talent wasted — A poem was read by Charles A Coffin upon Womans rights, which served to keep that popular theme alive and fresh in our minds —

Thus closing our pleasant evening we adjourned hoping to meet again all the dear familiar faces in the glad New Year of 1871 —

Sarah P Hill
Secretary
Pro. Tem

[illegible]

motion was carried.

The Executive Com. having [illegible] Com. [illegible] to bring forward to this meeting, [illegible] a new Executive Com. for the ensuing year.

The following named persons [illegible] with the President and Secretary [illegible] Com.

[illegible] Augustine Jones, [illegible]

The time having [illegible] of the Exec[illegible] the Executive Com. [illegible] names as candidates for [illegible]

For President, [illegible]

[illegible]

Reading Com.

[illegible]

"[illegible]"

[illegible]

[illegible] once [illegible] made there.

[illegible]
has mildness and best insight in-
simple phrases, which indeed [illegible] in the
[illegible] and make the soul to [illegible]
and purer than the common
[illegible]"

[illegible]

[illegible] found the commonest things,
pleasure and [illegible], a hap-
piness and beauty which has made [illegible]
[illegible] the best scenes of life."
[illegible] Whittier, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] man [illegible]
[illegible]

with coldness, some [illegible]
[illegible] to [illegible]

[illegible]

Tho' not [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] "The [illegible]" & "[illegible]" [illegible]
[illegible] He was sincere, a
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
raise money to build a new Establishment [illegible]
his own home."

Our Essayist seems to have [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] as a result" It was not one of [illegible]
strong passion, but one of [illegible]
[illegible] and [illegible].
religious fervor [illegible]
Among the most beautiful [illegible]
of his hymns is one [illegible] "and
[illegible]
[illegible]" at least a part of which
[illegible]—

[illegible]
Above its clouds and its [illegible]
To walk in the light [illegible]
And to dwell in the peace [illegible]
Of the land that no [illegible]"

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Clara Jane Bernard Da Costa [illegible] imitations, love and appreciating both [illegible] its effect and the principles which were [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] boldness and independence of character. As she grew older, she prided [illegible]

[illegible] She was led by an impression [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] She died at la[illegible] european near her, surrounded by nati[illegible] who plundered the house as soon as [illegible] mistress was dead.

It hardly seems possible; [illegible] that anyone can be led so far [illegible]

[illegible]

(Even in one knit and so filled [illegible] made in Lady Hester had [illegible].

There do [illegible] goodness in her. [illegible] was that people mainly [illegible] but her own pleasure.

Think what a cata[illegible] are enumerated as belong[illegible]

She was whimsical, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] which [illegible]

[illegible] exercises original [illegible] listened to a selection quite as new [illegible] to some as interesting; a portion of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, [illegible] natures, [illegible]

Those who effect [illegible] second thanks for [illegible] changed the [illegible]

The debate [illegible] pleasantness and its [illegible] commencement was [illegible] than anyone more the [illegible] readers [illegible] been read.

There was some time [illegible]

[illegible] by [illegible] [illegible] Pierson [illegible]

The Old and New Year are represented in "a cathedral porch" in the wild-wood. [illegible] the forest cold and still. Here is a sound of airy music, passing to and fro, which blend their voices in one solemn hymn of wordless worship to the true God. "[illegible] flashing in the [illegible] snow, [illegible] glorious creatures [illegible]". First comes Time, the [illegible].

[illegible] in [illegible] valley. [illegible]

[illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible] bringing here and there [illegible]

[illegible] aware

[illegible]

[illegible]

The following names [illegible]

Edward, [illegible], Kate [illegible]
George, Lilly, Abbie [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] 11 1871

The first Lyceum meeting was held at the house of [illegible] Gould [illegible] two weeks ago tonight. About seventy persons present. The meeting was opened by the reading of a portion of the 19th chapter of 1st Chronicles. The Executive Committee then presented the following persons as officers for the coming month. For President [illegible] [illegible] Secretary [illegible] [illegible] Committee Gilbert E Gray [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] Brown, who were unanimously elected. The first reading before the meeting was the conclusion of Dickens' [illegible] rendered by [illegible] which was received with evident enjoyment by his hearers. At the conclusion Augustus [illegible] stated in behalf of the Ex. Committee that their object in forming the Lyceum was to bring before the Lyceum meeting an entirely different class of reading than they had done before, trusting it would be a source of pleasure and instruction. It seems to me they could not have made a better selection in the line of fiction than from the pen of Charles Dickens. The many who have felt by the reading of the simple story of "Little Nell" a greater faith in the power of love and goodness and a greater abhorrence of all that is evil, will bear him witness that the lifes work, that God designed for him was faithfully done. And now that the great novelist is dead let no man question his religion and say that he confessed none. His works will stand forth living witnesses at the Judgment Day.

The next in order was the reading of two short poems and an essay on the derivation of proper names by Louisa Hoag. Mary J. Rogers than read an original poem entitled Mysteries

"All things are fraught with mystery
Flowers and ocean, frost and hidden mine
But darker yet the mystic shadow hovers
The human heart around
Yet there are moments when the soul is nearing
Higher and holier things
When bending low the ear of faith is hearing
The rush of spirit wings.
Let us walk contented as God has given
Humbly yet firmly on
Seeking a home in that purer heaven
Where mystic shades are gone"

The closing article was an original poem by the Poet of the Association J. Elwood Paige The Author drew a picture of one who stood on the line that separates between the bashful heedlessness of boy and settled man. And he had brot from college walls the wealth of a strong brave heart and cultured mind

And men made themselves his counsellors and the Churchman, Politician, and all the rest strove to have him walk with them, and with their earnest care for him forgot their *own* lights left behind them burning dim. But Reuben wearies of their appeals and replies: Tis not for hands of mine to undertake the work that falls to you in God's design. Go take the way that he appoints nor doubt that he is able too to show me mine. With varied gifts
we may not always see
The good in duties differing from our own
But leave the solving of the mystery
To other days when we shall know as we are known

The poem was very finely written and we wish we were able to give it a better report

The meeting then adjourned to meet fifth day evening fortnight. place of meeting to be decided by the Executive Committee

David J. Lord
Secretary

Lynn. Feby 26 1871

The last Essay Meeting was held at the house of Wm. A. Brown on Nahant Street a week ago tonight. 42 Persons present.

The meeting was opened by the reading of a portion of Pauls Epistle to the Ephesians.

The Secretary's report of the last meeting was read and accepted. Wm. A. Brown then read an essay on Proper People and Perfect People by Dr. Holland. The author is sound and sensible and we think best of all original in his ideas and we believe with him the best people are those who act themselves and are not fettered and bound by the great ruler of Society - Public Opinion. Following this Sarah J. Ellis read a poem from the Church of England Magazine entitled the Loved and Lost

Charles Pratt then favored the meeting with an original poem one that he had previously prepared. He represented Moses upon the moment of looking out upon the beautiful city before he died. He thought had a painter been there what a sublime scene might have been portrayed upon canvass. So he had tried to give in words his model of that picture

The poem was very finely written and many thanks are due to the author for this and previous efforts in behalf of the Essay meeting. It was followed by a poem of Adelaide Proctor's entitled "Give me thy heart" which was very finely read by Abbie M. Crosman: Martha E. Oliver than read the Little Iron Soldier by Whittier. It was a dream of Aminidab Ivinson and was a story with a moral to it. To those who had not the pleasure of hearing it read our advice is: read it. The Chairman of the Ex. Com. then announced that as there were a few minutes to spare Augustine Jones would make a few remarks. They were in reference to the Friends Meeting House in Boston. The first Friends meeting was held at the house of Edward Manton. After that in 1694 Friends bought a piece of land in Brattles pasture where there was a brick dwelling house which they used for some time. They afterwards built one upon Leverett St. now Congress which was afterwards destroyed by fire. The last one was built upon Milton Place some three or four years ago. He then read something that he thought would be interesting to all upon a different subject. He had been one of the Exrs. of Andrews estate and found among his papers a letter written by A. Jackson to a friend. He thought it might be interesting to us to see his handwriting. It was dated May 1st, 1833. The Chairman of the Reading Committee then announced that O. E. Chase had offered to entertain the next meeting if it could be held a week from that evening. Adjourned to meet one week from that evening at the house of Mary Brown No. Common St.

L. S. Lord
Secretary

Lynn. Dec 12th 1871

The First Essay Meeting of the Season by appointment of the Ex Committe assembled at the house of Alvin Hoag on Hobart St. on the evening of 11mo 29th 1871. Some of the members being out of Town on that particular evening the meeting was not large about 25 persons being present in the absence of the President Augustine Jones, Elwood Paige as Chairman of the Ex Committe opened the meeting by reading the 1st Chapter of James. in the absence of the Sect. on motion of Gilbert C. Hoag Geo. D. Hice was appointed Sect for the evening. Some introductory remarks were then made by Elwood Paige. which were interesting instructive and to the point. Containing a short history of the rise and progress of this meeting up to the present time. Pointing out its merits and defects and modestly showing the want of Intellectual Culture in our midst. Also showing the importance of giving this Organisation a cordial support as an important step in this direction showing that if all were as willing to Entertain as to be Entertained the the nessary Stimulus to our

Exercises would be furnished

The first exercise as furnished by the Reading Committe was a Selection in Prose entitled the "True Ritual" read by Mary Rogers. The author of this Essy first Shows what the pratice of Ritual is in different Creeds, Stating that the "Jew" offered his in older time with a single hearted confidence that it pleased God, and that the Idea that of Jesus that the Sabbath was made for man was a new one to the Jew who had always supposed that God claimed it for himself the object of the author seemed to be to Show among other things that there was a natural desire in mankind to do some Service for God, and the pratice of forms and rites what he supposed him most pleased with, but that this is a mistake and that God realy prefers instead a life of Patience Purity and Love of generous helpful words and deeds The author further says we do not put enough Religion into our Service for man and not enough Service for man into our Religion The other exercises of the evening consisted of Choice Selections read by Alice Jones Olivia C Hill & Louisa P. Hoag

General Remarks were then made by some members of the Associations and upon Motion of Steffen, Buck a unanimous vote of thanks was given to the contributers of the evening. Upon motion of Gilbert C Hoag the Meeting adjourned to meet at the House of Augustin Jones on third day Evening 12 mo 12th 1871.

Geo. D. Hill
Secy Pro Tem

[illegible] 26th 1871

The Cosmian meeting convened on the evening of 12th inst. at the residence of Augustine Jones Mt. Pleasant Street. About sixty five members were present. Augustine Jones opened the exercises of the evening by reading a portion of Scripture.
The report of the last meeting was then read and accepted.
The Executive Committee presented the name of John H. Chapman to serve as President, which was accepted by the meeting and he assumed the duties of the office. The following officers were then elected for the ensuing month, for Secretary J. Clarkson Chase for Reading Committee Olive C. Hill. Martha C. Oliver and C. [illegible] Williams.
Charles Pratt of Boston was then introduced as the essayist of the evening and proceeded to read an original essay entitled "The Facing Seat"
The object of the writer was to show that if the thoughts and minds that throng some [illegible] occupy honorable places and are looked upon as leaders in the church it would be found they are not so pure and perfect [illegible] as many who occupy more humble positions. The hero of the narrative was one Oliver Peck a worthy and consistent member of the Society of Friends who was accustomed to attend regularly the meetings of said Society. At the close of a meeting he was invited by an elderly friend to a place on the facing seat. Oliver hesitated about accepting and it caused him no little concern, for he realized that

occupants of these places as upon men far above him both in the religious and social scale.

During the following week his mind often dwelt upon this subject and one day fatigued with his labor and thoughts he went to the wall which separates the yard from the meeting house lot and leaning over looked carelessly into the meeting house through a rear window till he was lost in a sort of dream or reverie. He saw the house peopled with its usual First day occupants both in the body of the house and on the facing and rising seats. the facing seats seemed to him [illegible] and the breasts of the occupants were opened and he saw as it were the inner workings of each mind. He was surprised to find that the minds of these most pious looking men were occupied with [illegible] their thoughts, one was thinking of a chair [illegible] had made [illegible] another was picking outs from the congregation different men for [illegible]. He then saw the minds of the congregation [illegible] him [illegible] in many places where he least expected to find examples of Christian morality and piety he found these [illegible] meekness, prayer with other Christian virtues.

This dream had a great effect upon [illegible] and [illegible] instead of going on to the facing seat he would prefer to [illegible] several seats farther back.

The meeting house was beautifully described by one writer in these words.

"In the healthy Quaker heart the meeting house occupies a place of fond and delicate regard with all its uncomeliness and imperfections and still

the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] in
scenes of [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible]
It is the place where prayer is wont to be made
and where the tongue of strife and the pulses of
wrath are hushed with the praise of God.
Through its doors [illegible] [illegible] pass to the world
of life, and over its threshold the slow paced mourners
passed to the house of death. Under its roof the
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and the [illegible] [illegible]
"[illegible] is [illegible] with the voice of [illegible]."
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] thought [illegible] of the [illegible]
and [illegible] seats [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible]
instead of being scattered all over the house, [illegible]
together [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
much better [illegible] might be had.
The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] appearances may be deceitful
and it is not enough that persons make external demon-
strations of religion but should [illegible] by [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] that their profession [illegible]
But it is [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] place you around those seats [illegible] many [illegible]
and tender recollections. [illegible] we can remember [illegible]
aged and [illegible] friends [illegible] gone before who were
accustomed [illegible] to sit in those places [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] so long [illegible]
customary to have those seats and so long as we know
they are [illegible] by [illegible] [illegible] Christians let
us hope that such [illegible] [illegible] are not
the rule but only occasional exceptions.
The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
entitled [illegible] [illegible] which was read by

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in all ways complete [illegible] [illegible] communicated by [illegible] Edmund Rice. It is a pity [illegible] so [illegible] capable of writing [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] his talents on such articles as have generally come from his pen.

The thanks of the [illegible] members, on motion of [illegible] [illegible] was tendered the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

The society then adjourned to meet at the [illegible] of [illegible] Hall on the evening of [illegible] 12th [illegible] 187[illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Secretary.

Lyceum Jan 9th 1872

Our meeting convened on the evening of 12th mo 26th 1871 at the house of B. T. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] fifteen members being present. John H. [illegible] opened the exercises of the evening by reading a portion of Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians.
The report of the last meeting was then read by the Secretary and accepted.
The Chairman of the Reading Committee announced as the first exercise of the evening a select reading by James C. [illegible] from Spencer's Essays. The paragraphs selected considered the rights of women. The ground taken by the writer was that the obedience & subjection of the wife to the husband does not enhance her comforts. That the submission of one person to another or of one position in which one is above the other is not conducive to right feeling. A man of refined feeling does not like to play the despot. If the little words "If you please" and "I thank you" were oftener used instead of the rough cold words of command, much better feeling would be engendered. And if a man dislikes to speak in a manner of authority to a paid domestic how much softer should he speak to his wife the nearest and dearest of earthly relations. How much better the world would be if it was natural to be pleasant and courteous to those associated with them in a

business way in the family or other relations.
The next paragraph was in regard to Woman's mission and asked if any can really know what that mission is, opinions being so various in different minds and different countries As among the Indians and less civilized nations Woman is compelled to do all the hard work and drudgery so but as nations advance in civilization and cultivation Woman is advancing and taking higher position. Her kindness and truth having been acknowledged as entitled and deserving esteem. [illegible] presented.
[illegible] read a short story of [illegible] illustrative of this question of gentleness and courteous manners which in this case almost prevented war.
Lucy J. Jones next read Burns's poem "The Cotter's Saturday Night". This like most of Burns' writings so simple and true to nature strikes a popular chord which charms all minds and although familiar one never tires of reading or hearing it read. One can just in a tribute to Burns has said.

With clearer eyes I saw the worth
Of life among the lowly
The Bible at his cotter's hearth
Had made my own more holy.

The piece was finely read and it was the subject of general remark that [illegible] never been before. This was owing in a great degree to the fine reading and expression.

[illegible] of the [illegible] was to [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] for a [illegible] to the [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] ([illegible] of [illegible]) [illegible] to [illegible] Goodrich Jones Jr [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] concerning his disposition to be satisfied with the respectability and wealth which his father had acquired for him. He was informed that it was his father's integrity, name and means that made him Goodrich Jones Jr respectable and not anything that he himself had done.

The world is full of examples of the bad effects [illegible] upon a young man that is content to live upon his father's respectability. He was informed if he wished to gain the esteem and good will of the public that efforts should be made to be esteemed for the worth and personal merits of his own.

J. E. Paige Esq. read an original poem entitled "Ruby Jones" as a companion to "Hannah Jane" which was read at the last meeting.

The members of the Essay Meeting are justly proud of their Poet and not seldom [illegible] express their high praise of his writing. This poem comes up to the standard, and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] been equal to that in which Hannah Jane is held.

This evening closed the literary entertainment.

As the term of office of the Executive Committee was about to expire, on motion of Louis P. Hoag. a committee of three was appointed consisting of Ollie L. Reese, Clara Paige and Gilbert E. Hoag to nominate candidates for the committee for the ensuing term to be reported at the next meeting.

Alva C. Hart as Chairman of the Reading Committee said it was prepared to introduce for debate at the next meeting and in their next preparation might be made announced as a Question "Does our Educational System secure to the Young such cultivation and discipline as the present age and the duty of our future demand." [illegible] and [illegible] Jones were appointed on the affirmative and William Hill and [illegible] on negative.
No further business coming up, the meeting adjourned to meet at the house of [illegible] [illegible] Dec 9th 1878

[illegible]
Secretary

[illegible] 1st mo. 4th 1872.

The first Essay Meeting of the New Year and the largest of the Season, thus far, assembled at the house of Nathan Bird.

The Meeting was opened by reading the 55th Chap. of Isaiah.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted.

The executive Committee reported the following names, as officers of the Meeting for the ensuing month, viz –

For President – Daniel J. Bird.
" Secretary Deborah W. Crosman –
Reading Committee – J. Ellwood Paige – Lucy J. Jones – and Elma Coffin.

who were elected.

A Selection from Home Life &c by J.F.W. Ware – was read by Wm C. Bird. and I could but think that many a Mother's heart responded to the idea of the Author – that to make home what it really should be required the presence of the father as well as the mother – and that not his tired hours only should be given to the home circle.—

It does seem unfortunate that the oft repeated questions – "What shall we eat & what shall we drink, and where-withal shall we be clothed", requires so large a portion of mans life. — Sometimes of woman's also. —

Others are much engrossed by public duties, which take much of the time — which would be — or ought to be so valuable to the family at home.

And still others — having realized the benefit of one of "Earths choicest blessings" — and seeing how many in our city are ruining once happy homes — or wandering in ignorance & sin; — are ready to go forth, to do what seems to be in their power to reclaim the erring — teach the ignorant — and point the sinner to a better way.

Do not these sometimes hear little pleading voices saying "Dont go away tonight Father" "please play some games with us. — or read to us tonight?" —

I often feel that it is at quite a sacrifice that these go forth to do what seems to be their duty — and that there may be a possibility of neglecting our own in our efforts to do good to others. —

After the reading the following Question was proposed for discussion — Viz —

Does our educational system secure to the young, such cultivation and discipline as the present age and the safety of the Republic demand?

The Question was opened by Augustine

James in the affirmative — Stating the origin of our educational system "to have been in the cabin of the May-Flower - when that stern but brave-hearted band. planned for the future govt of their colony", and he thought - had they turned to their Bible for aid, as they were wont to do — could they have found any thing more appropriate than the first verse of the Chapter read. (without in the least detracting from the grandeur of the Prophecy) "Ho! every one that thirsteth - come ye to the waters - and he that hath no money - come ye to buy and eat - yea - come buy wine and milk without money and without price". —

He also gave us some extracts from the Statutes the different grades represented and said the system was carried to its greatest perfection in New England - and Massachusetts was a type of the whole. —

Lebbeus Hill opened the negative, but with the excuse that business had taken him from home till near the time of meeting but called our attention to some defects in our country schools which of necessity could not be graded — when a school of the number of one school in Lynn would consist of as many classes as would form four or five under the graded system. (The negative the same spirit in arguing - as [illegible] was so much better).

Peter M. Neal followed in aff.— He also had given but little time to the subject but claimed many good points in our system — a prominent one being the habit of regularity which children acquired by attending School at regular hours.—

Louisa P. Hoag in Neg. called our attention to many defects in our "boasted system" — in our buildings with so many flights of stairs to pass over — in the uniform height of seats in Schools which are required to be of equal intellect — but these are not always contained in bodies of equal size, of the faults of the higher grades of which have been so long apparent to all and feel an interest in these Schools. — of passing over so many studies in so short a time as to gain only a superficial knowledge of each, — reprehending the whole forcing system.

She would encourage more attention to drawing from objects — a more critical study of our "Mother tongue" in the works of our best Authors — and that they should be taught to think more for themselves.

The discussion was continued by James B. Boyce J. H. Crosman. Wm A Brown and Samuel Boyce, but owing to the lateness of the hour it was ~~proposed~~ voted to meet in one week to continue the discussion.

The Nominating Committee reported the following names to constitute the Executive Committee for the ensuing year — Viz —

J. Clarkson Chase — Alice Jones. Carrie Beede —

George D Hill - Elisa Coffin and Wm. C. Breed - who were elected. —

Adjourned to meet at the house of Wm A. Brown one week from this evening.

Deborah H. Crosman.
Secretary.

Lynn 1st Mo 16th 1872.

Essay Meeting met as appointed at the house of Mrs A Brown. — a large number being present. —

Meeting was opened by reading a portion of Scripture by the President.

Secretarys report was read and accepted.

The reading Committee announced the first exercise to be the reading of Bryants Forest Hymn which was finely read by George T. Jones. and though long familiar there always seems a new beauty in his word picture of the "Cool and silence of the darkling wood". And we ~~feel~~ almost feel that we too have wandered
"Among the grey old oaks that high in heaven.
Mingled their mossy boughs" & heard "the sound
Of the invisible breath that swayed at once
All their green tops. . . . And bowed the
The spirit with the thought of boundless power
And inaccessible majesty." —

The discussion of the Question of the previous evening was resumed by James P. Boyce. followed by J H Crosman Samuel Boyce. - Peter M. Neal - Walter B. Allen Lucy T. Jones. Owen Dame Gilbert Hoag - Lebbeus Hill and Augustine Jones. —

Many good things were said on both sides, but perhaps the Secretary will be excused for not attempting a report of the different speeches inasmuch as nearly all who participated in the debate, are known "for their "ready speaking" Some allusion however is due to Lucy J. Jones, being the only lady who took part in the discussion Her remarks were attentively listened to and deserved consideration for she spoke concerning things that had come under her own observation during years of service as a teacher in our public Schools. —

The Question being taken upon the subject under consideration was decided in the Negative.

— All present seemed to enjoy the discussion and it seemed a pleasant variation in the usual exercises —

Adjourned to meet at the house of Joseph C. Brown - two weeks from this eve.

Deborah W. Crosman.
Secretary.

The last Essay Meeting was held on the 30th of First Month, at the house of Joseph Brown in Broad Street — Owing to the absence of the President, J. Clarkson Chase, Chairman of the Executive committee, opened the meeting by reading a portion of Scripture, after which the officers for the ensuing month were elected, William Dennis for President, Sarah P. Hill for Secretary, Gilbert C. Gray, Alice Jenkins, and Thomas Hood, for reading committee.

The Chairman of the reading committee then presented us with a fine Editorial, which was the prelude to an intellectual feast, such an one as the Essay Meeting rarely partakes of — A piece was then read showing that the errors of the past may become "Beacon Lights" to the future, also showing how many imperfections the finger of love may cover.

Then came the Ansfield Quarterly Meeting, a very pretty description and the little incidents by the way made it exceedingly interesting to our young people, who I think can fully appreciate the part of Isaac and Rebecca!— There were many other able pieces, such as Pure Diction, Pleasures of Reading, Attention, also a poem called Cloud Pictures &c.—I think the Golden Text for the evening must have been the "Golden Rule", that was wanted to be carried into the minutest details of life.— "The Spirit of meditation" Have we covered all the faults of our neighbors, and friends? or have we exposed them to the glaring light of criticism!—

As our friend from Vassar College speaks of "Fenelon" we will conclude with him, "Lord thou knowest what I have need of before I ask thee."

With a vote of thanks for the Editors and Contributors appropriate remarks concerning articles read we adjourned, purposing to meet two weeks from next fifth day evening, at Mortimer Hawkes in Tremont Street.

T. P. Hill Secretary,

Lynn 2d Mo 15th 1872

The C[illegible] meeting adjourned held at the house of N. Spinney [illegible] at a quarter before eight — the President William Dennis opened the meeting by reading a portion of Scripture. —

The Chairman of the reading committee presented a selection from the "Parables of Nature" by Mrs A. Gatty, the title being "gifts".
"Now there are diversities of gifts."
That we readily see as we mingle with the people of the world;
This is true also in the vegetable kingdom, each going after its kind. each bearing a part in the full perfection of the kingdom which is boundless the plant which is harmony.
"But covet earnestly the best gifts". —

A selection was then read by George Jones from "our Mutual Friend" by Charles Dickens — he in a style peculiar to himself, speaks of the Orphans of the widows and of the idea that some have of our Institutions for the dependents.

may the time come when the poor shall regard such institutions as homes indeed, when love, pity and forbearance be the ruling spirits, until they go forth from amongst us where all tears will be wiped away.

A Poem was read by Alice Jenkins entitled "from Shore to Shore" which is the title of one of the tenderest and most touching picture poems of life, suggestive of life's journey from Childhood to old age. In Childhood their imagination paints the future with beauties, in youth life seems to take form and action, still "distance lends enchantment to the view", their minds are still roaming in loves young dream —

"Childhood looks forth with eager glance,
Time steady plies the oar,
While old age calmly waits to hear
The keel upon the shore."

If after we have travelled life's journey with all its joys and sorrows, hopes and fears may it be our portion to calmly wait to hear the keel upon the shore.

Thus closed the evening pleasantly and we hope profitably spent. The Meeting then adjourned to meet in Special session next fifth day evening at such place as the Executive Committee may designate —

S. P. Hill sect

On the 21st of 2nd month the Essay Meeting convened in Special Session at the house of William Melcher—

The President opened the Meeting by reading from the Scriptures.—

The Chairman of the reading Committee then announced that we were to have an Essay by Meriam Underhill. The subject of which was "Conversation" at the mention of the subject all were interested for all had a part in the subject; we either felt that we were a little addicted to unjust speaking or that we were perfectly clear. Many have prayed earnestly Lord set a watch before my mouth"— This speaking unjustly of persons is a grave matter, it comes from thoughtlessness, a thoughtlessness that we must correct— Did not many after hearing that Essay, say within themselves let us take heed from this hour that our conversation be yea, yea, nay, nay, aught more cometh of evil—

Augustine Jones then read from Burns several beautiful selections, viz the "Twa Dogs stories", Saut Aytin &c —

A Poet says of Burns

"Ye withered spoiler to ~~teeth~~ of time
So Bonny Doon but tarry —
Blot out the Epics stately rhyme
But spare his Highland Mary".

A poem was then read by Mary Hawkes, showing the strong affection that may exist between families. Then by showing that Pauls epistle to the Romans should be enjoined upon us: "Be ye kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love in honor preferring one another —

Our meeting then adjourned to meet one week from next fifth day evening at Charles F. Coffin's —

S. P. Hill secy

[illegible] and interesting [illegible] than can be [illegible] [illegible] good [illegible] possible [illegible]

[illegible] and [illegible] provided.

[illegible] Committee [illegible] of [illegible] College [illegible] the [illegible] Committee for [illegible]

[illegible] of the evening. [illegible] intelligent audience, it would [illegible] It seems [illegible] believed to the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] daily after another errand [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] small [illegible]
[illegible] be obliged to devote much energy
and still there are [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] may be called with the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the year, the following officers
to serve for the ensuing [illegible].
For President; A. Mortimer [illegible];
[illegible]
" Reading Committee; Peter M. [illegible],
Anna F. [illegible], Henry Crosman.
The Committee also recommends the [illegible]
four [illegible] regular meetings [illegible]

ded. At least it should yield to
of improvement and like other reme-
-to be used homeopathically.
We were for this time disappointed

happening in our [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
the report of the [illegible] [illegible]
in the absence of the [illegible] [illegible]

evening, after which the business
[illegible] meetings, [illegible] more [illegible]
[illegible] matters within the S

[illegible]

[illegible] lippe.

[illegible] Peter M. Neal in a graphic [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] utive Committee.

Martha C. Oliver Recording pro. tem.

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
favorable there was a large attendance
numbering about [illegible] exercises
opened at a quarter [illegible] eight
with a chapter from the Bible
by N. C. Gettmer [illegible] after
which [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
Martha Oliver. This was followed
by [illegible] "Coming"
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] which
occasioned a [illegible] the
company especially among the
ladies whose state of single
blessedness was [illegible] in so
[illegible] a manner. [illegible]
could marry [illegible]

but many preferred to remain single rather [illegible] [illegible] rather than marry for the sake of [illegible] a home and position. Among single women she had found some of the noblest traits of character. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] was the case! The first [illegible] money instead of the [illegible]. The reader also spoke of the [illegible] it was that the [illegible] close of the Essay a few remarks were made. The selections "Annabel Lee" and "Little Gretchen" [illegible]

Susie S. Sears
Secty

[illegible] C[illegible]
[illegible] evening, [illegible] [illegible]
the 6th of [illegible] 3rd mo. '73, [illegible] the attendance
was good numbering [illegible] fifty
and six. The meeting [illegible]
at a [illegible] with
reading [illegible]
Report [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] were
read by the Secretary. [illegible]
business of the meeting [illegible] [illegible]
attended to and an [illegible] [illegible]
contributors chosen for the paper
to be published at the [illegible]
meeting.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] were [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] hall, [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] rendition of the [illegible] [illegible] in offering [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] with an [illegible] chorus. It showed great skill & [illegible] [illegible] fully [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] extended to the [illegible] [illegible] and it was also resolved that the [illegible] acknowledgment be [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. There being no other business the meeting adjourned [illegible] [illegible] at the [illegible] of [illegible].

[illegible]
Sec.

The last regular Essay meeting of the season was held at the house of Walter B. Allen on the 27th of the 3rd month. with the fullest attendance of the season,

The exercises were opened by the reading of the Scriptures by the Pres. Pro. tem. Thomas Wood, followed by the usual few moments of silence. The Secretary's report of the previous meeting was then read.

The Ex. Com. offered as officers for the ensuing term; Pres. John Henry Crosman Secy. David J. Lord

The Reading Committee then announced as essayist of the evening Dr. J. G. Pinkham, who read an original essay on Self Denial. The essayist showed how the practice of true Self Denial was enjoined upon us from the very beginning of life. and that the great importance should be most seriously felt. Man was a free agent given by God control of his appetites and passions and held accountable to him for the right use of them.

He only could be held guiltless who recognized God's will and abode by it, holding his desires & emotions subservient to the Divine law, and who was ready in the cause of truth and right to sacrifice everything, to deny himself and follow him. The essay was forcibly written and it was evident from the close attention it received not without some fruit in the hearts of its hearers.

The meeting was then favored by an original paper read by Abigail C. Pude entitled "Our Essay Meeting". The writer regretted, that among the many attendants at the essay meetings there were not more original articles offered. Where there was so much talent and intelligence there should be more fruit. She spoke with much pleasure of the Essays from Chas. Pratt, Miriam Underhill, Foster Mitchell and others during the winter. She urged upon us the duty of awakening from our inactiv state of self-satisfaction and of using our powers for the benefits of others.

The justice of her remarks will be acknowledged by all. May her plea for more earnest work in the future be not without fruit, that when another season is over, her welcome word may be heard once more, not spurring us on to our duty but in the praise of the energetic and active literary work of the Friends' Essay Meeting. Adjourned

D. J. Lord
Secy.

Essay Meeting for the winter of 1873 & -4 opened late in the season and was creditably kept up.
Executive Committee, to serve during the year 1874 is as follows
J. Ellmore Paige, Gulielma Wood
Geo. N. Jones Abbie M. Coleman,
Lebbeus Hall & Helen Dennis.
Officers serving at time of adjournment,

Pres't Augustine Jones
Sec. Mary J. Rogers

Reading Com. { J. E. Paige
Lucy T. Jones
L. M. Austin.

[illegible] meeting [illegible]

[illegible] The President [illegible]

[illegible] Bowman was there chosen [illegible] for the ensuing [illegible]

[illegible] The first article [illegible]

Following this [illegible]

[illegible] the close of the meeting [illegible]

[illegible] to prevent their accep- [illegible] objection being made [illegible]

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The list of new officers [illegible]
For President, Dr. P. G. Stevens; for Secre-
tary, Abbie M. Bowman; for the
Reading Committee, Martha [illegible]
and Allen P. Aldrich.

[illegible] it was finally
decided to meet on the [illegible]
evening previous.

No invitation being extended for
our next meeting, we adjourned to
meet at a place announced by the
Executive Committee.

Abbie [illegible]
Secretary.

The second Essay Meeting was
called at Wm. O. Tenhalls, the [illegible]
evening, [illegible]. The attendance
was small. The meeting having
come to order, the President Dr.
Stevens read the third chapter of
1st Corinthians. [illegible]
silence, Martha [illegible]
only introduced Sarah [illegible]
was to entertain [illegible].

[illegible] for the
[illegible] gathering the
[illegible] Boston [illegible]
it was moved [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] Under this head, the speaker [illegible] the three great departments of [illegible], Philosophy and Poetry, [illegible] Shelley, Spenser, Wordsworth, [illegible] and Browning, and in [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]
Secretary.

The invitation extended [illegible] Essay Meeting by Ulric [illegible] [illegible] attended by its members.

After the customary [illegible] [illegible] lunch following, an essay [illegible] nounced to be read by [illegible] [illegible] to be unwilling to become [illegible] listeners yet again, and this may have in part accounted for the large attendance.

The simple announcement [illegible] subject "The Neglect of the [illegible]" [illegible] ularly addressed, while the [illegible] dressed listened in order [illegible] their critical [illegible] which away [illegible] Foll [illegible].

[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible] and her other fine tal-
[illegible] there be but one, not
[illegible] that one in a napkin.
[illegible] a similar to this seemed
[illegible] conveyed in an article, which
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
Martha for her too solicitous
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] unnecessary care and
[illegible] learning of her Master
received the eulogy."

At the conclusion of a short
discussion on the essay which
[illegible], George V. Fox
[illegible]
[illegible] of the Course.
[illegible] appointed for the
[illegible] President Penn
[illegible] Mary, Carrie Ryder,
[illegible] Committee, Peter
[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Society [illegible] on the 3rd of 12th mo. at the house of [illegible] on Baltimore St.

Owing to the state of the weather and [illegible] the attendance was not quite as large as at some previous times. In the absence of the President J. Elwood Paige [illegible] the [illegible], and [illegible]

[illegible] was appointed [illegible] [illegible] Secretary's report was then read and approved.

The report of the Reading Committee was next called for, and John H. [illegible] was announced as first upon the list of readers. The subject of the article chosen was "Gray's Country Churchyard", written by Bishop Haven, which was listened to with much attention, being both interesting and instructive. Edward [illegible] then [illegible] subject "Christmas".

[illegible] in order was [illegible] written by Helen Dennis.

And lastly Peter M. Neal read some extracts from "A Schoolmaster's [illegible]". [illegible] two weeks previously, and [illegible] the same subject, [illegible]

Remarks [illegible] [illegible] in order and [illegible] [illegible] read as [illegible] the original poem [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and proposed a request to [illegible] the author for its publication, which was united with, and a vote taken to that effect, and the President and Secretary were appointed to provide a way for its publication subject to the approval of the author.

The term for which the Executive Committee were appointed having expired, a Committee of three [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Jones and [illegible] [illegible] were appointed [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] present at the next meeting [illegible] a new Committee. It was voted that the number of the Committee be changed from six to four, two ladies and two gentlemen.

Adjourned to meet in two weeks, from next fifth day evening, at the house of Augustine Jones.

M. Cassie Beede
Secretary

The Essay Meeting was held at the residence of Augustine Jones on the [illegible] of 11th mo. 1879. [illegible] Attendance [illegible] the [illegible], only 26 persons being present.

The exercises commenced by the President's reading the 88th Psalm, followed by the reading and acceptance of the Secretary's report.

Augustine Jones was then introduced as Essayest of the evening. His subject was Denominational Schools, which was handled in a very able manner and judging by the close attention with which it was listened to, it was fully appreciated by all. His idea seemed to be that each society should hold schools of their own, taught by those of their own Denomination. He thought that if a man really believed a thing it was his duty to teach it.

He read some extracts from a report of the Meeting for Sufferings for New England held in 1782 which seemed to favor his arguments.

At the close of the Essay quite a discussion followed mostly favoring the ideas advanced. Katie [illegible] thought

Friends were not [illegible], in [illegible] [illegible] Friends [illegible], yet [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] children in the [illegible], and other Denominations were represented there but not Friends.

Dr. Pinkham thought there was a lack somewhere. the young Friends in many instances seemed to be driven from the society, he could not tell where the fault was.

Remarks were also made by C. H. [illegible], J. H. Crossman Wm. A. Brown and others.

The discussion occupied so much time that the Committee decided to omit a part of the programme selected, and the exercises were closed by the reading by James P. Boyce of a beautiful little poem entitled "Go It Alone" [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] written by [illegible] [illegible] Craven.

The following names were presented for officers for the next month viz. President Libbeus Hill, Secretary Hannah E. [illegible]. Reading Committee George [illegible] and E. H. [illegible] which were voted upon and accepted. The names for a new Executive Committee were next brought forward and received viz. J. Elwood Paige, Lucy Y. Jones, Dr. S. G. Stevens and Isabella Ford.

Adjourned to meet two weeks from this evening.

M. Carrie Burke Secretary

[illegible]

[illegible] and considering the [illegible] weather, was well attended.

The meeting was [illegible] in Hall 14th Room, and [illegible]

[illegible] accepted [illegible]

[illegible] the minutes of [illegible]

reading the [illegible]

seconded [illegible]

[illegible] was read, & some [illegible]

The next meeting [illegible]

[illegible]

Committee [illegible]

[illegible]

decided that [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] until the second "[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

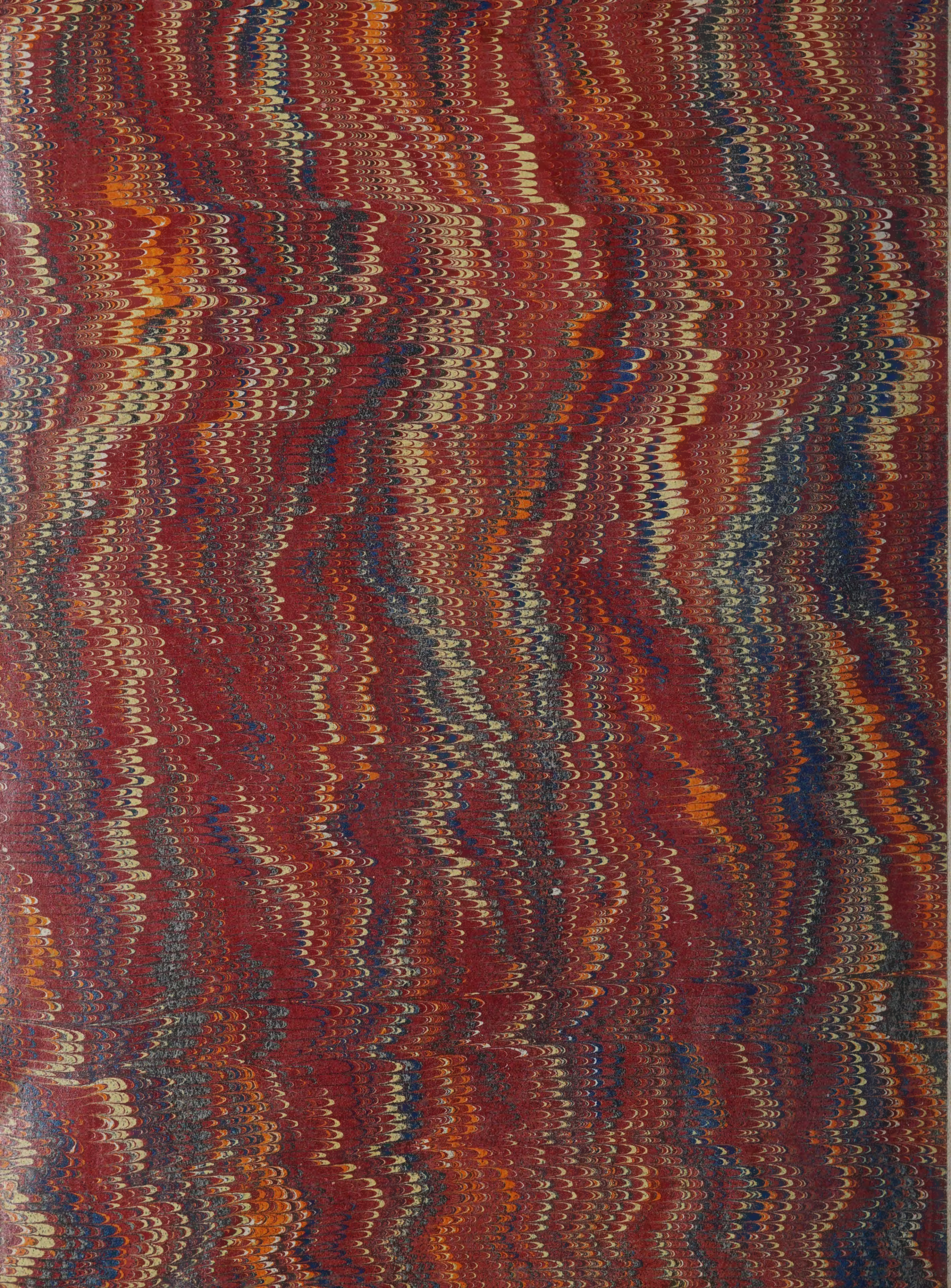
[illegible]ment. [illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] and [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] were made. [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] Charles B. [illegible]

[illegible]